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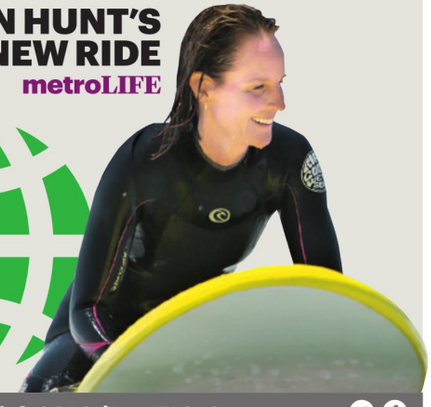

LET'S PARTY

How to kick it old-school and rock your block metronews

metro's NEW VOICES

REBECCA KOHLER
SELFIE STICKS: NOOOO

JESSICA ALLEN
MY TV DINNER

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
SEX ASSAULT & THE MILITARY

The billionaires are here

PROPERTY

Real estate boom in T.O. — if you're really rich

Toronto was the "hottest" city in the world last year among the growing number of rich and sometimes famous scouring the planet for luxury real estate.

Toronto saw a staggering 37-per-cent surge in high-end residential real-estate purchases from so-called high net-worth individuals in 2014, according to the third annual survey of luxury-buying trends by Christie's International Real Estate.

Thanks to factors such as the weak Canadian dollar, Toronto came out on top for growth among highly desirable urban destinations, out of more than 80 global markets examined by Christie's.

The buying spree by multimillionaires and billionaires was unprecedented worldwide in 2014, says Christie's, given the explosion of the newly wealthy — some 200 new billionaires just from 2013 to 2014.

Buying in Canada has become a real bargain, given the slumping dollar and what's happening in the rest of the world: A record 18 international homes were listed at more than $100 million last year .

Five sold at those stratospheric highs, the most expensive a $147 million mansion in The Hamptons and a home on the French Riviera mansion for $146 million.

Toronto was also catapulted into the Top 10 "Best of the Best" cities of the world, along with Dubai, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Paris, San Francisco and Sydney.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Teenage survivor pulled from rubble five days after Nepal quake. **World**

Students encouraged to focus on forgiveness

YOUTH SUMMIT

Granddaughter of Desmond Tutu delivers words of hope

It's possible to forgive one another for the cruelty humans inflict — South African apartheid, Canada's residential schools — but true forgiveness can take a lifetime of practice, warns the scrappy teenaged granddaughter of a world icon of forgiveness, Desmond Tutu.

"Sometimes you have to wake up every day and forgive again. Forgiveness is a journey, not a destination," said Nyaniso Burris, who spoke to York Region high school students Thursday as part of a youth summit on aboriginal awareness. The event shone a spotlight on the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions — in South Africa, about the atrocities committed under apartheid, and here in Canada, where a sweeping report on the legacy of abuse in residential schools is due within weeks.

From snapping a selfie of the audience and complaining that her mother tried to edit her speech, to scolding government corruption by "an inept cadre of clowns," Burris showed the same bold irreverence that helped earn her outspoken grandfather a Nobel Peace Prize.

Yet, like the ailing cleric whose cancer prevented him from making the trip this week, the 18-year-old drama student delivered a message of hope.

"After centuries of hurt, how could they think two years (of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission) would be enough?" asked Burris.

> **"I believe reconciliation is possible in our lifetime, but it takes time.**
> Nyaniso Burris

"It's hard listening to the sort of stories that come out during Truth and Reconciliation hearings — you don't want to listen; it's not a comfortable feeling," said Burris. "But part of being a patriot is accepting your country in its entirety, even when it has messed up."

The summit was part of a three-day symposium organized by a coalition of social service and education groups known as the Community Inclusivity Equity Council of York Region.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nyaniso Burris, 18, and sister Onalenna, 9, granddaughters of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, visited York Region High School students at Markham Theatre. COLE BURSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDUCATION

Message to boys: Stand Up

The throng of Grade 8 boys circled excitedly around Const. Edward Parks, eyeing his gun and handcuffs, endlessly curious about the contents of his belt and jockeying to try on his bullet-resistant vest.

Parks had their rapt attention, and the Regent Park neighbourhood officer knew he could not waste the opportunity.

"Listen guys, if you want to be a cop, you gotta be educated," he said. "Look at me. Of all this stuff that's on my person — my gun, my baton, everything — the best weapon I have is my mind."

At a key moment in the lives of about 200 13- and 14-year-old boys from across Toronto, Parks was among 60 black men to participate in the Young Men's Stand Up conference Thursday, an event aimed at providing positive black role models for boys who comes from areas where there may be few.

Now in its sixth year, the event draws CEOs, teachers, social workers, lawyers — and this year, the city's first black police chief.

"Every single day that you wake up, every single day that you go to school is an investment," Chief Mark Saunders told the crowd in the packed George Brown College auditorium. "If you're continuing to learn, and continuing to want to learn, each and every day you become better than your competition."

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HUDSON'S BAY

Cities with something to say

Youthful Cities, a nonprofit organization that works to empower and engage youth, on Thursday officially released its annual list of the best cities for young people. Toronto landed the coveted top spot last year, but plunged to sixth place in the new recent rankings. To mark the report's release, Youthful Cities brought 50 youth delegates from across the globe to Toronto to impart their wisdom about what makes a city appealing to people younger than 30. Metro spoke with some of the delegates, asking what they like about Toronto and what the city could learn from their respective hometowns. **LUKE SIMCOE/METRO**

ZELDA LIANG, 28, HONG KONG

Zelda Liang. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Zelda Liang works for Oxfam International and hails from Hong Kong, a city she describes as "a bridge between the West and Asia."

What she likes about Toronto: Gathering spaces for young people.

In Hong Kong, there are few places where youth can come together and share ideas, Liang said. Space is at such a premium in the city that it's not uncommon to see students hanging out and doing homework at McDonald's. As a result, Liang was impressed by the number of shared spaces in Toronto, including the Centre for Social Innovation the MaRS Discovery District.

"Young people want their share of the city," she said.

What Toronto could learn from Hong Kong: Public transit creates jobs.

Compared to Toronto, where youth unemployment was as high as 18 per cent in 2013, Liang said it's easier for young people in Hong Kong to find jobs. There are many reasons why, but one of them is the city's "extremely convenient" public transit system, she said.

By connecting the city's core to more outlying areas, Liang said Hong Kong has opened up opportunities for young people to work further away from where they live.

"Better transit allows for a more inclusive city," she said.

Youthful Cities delegates, from left, Nilofer Habibullah, Zelda Liang, Derakhshan Qurban-Ali and Jesse Danger spent part of Thursday discussing how to make Toronto more appealing to youth. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

JESSE DANGER, 26, NEW YORK

Jesse Danger. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Jesse Danger runs Movement Creative, a parkour-inspired organization that "empowers youth through movement and the creative exploration of public space."

What he likes about Toronto: Late nights at Sugar Beach.

A lot of public parks and other spaces in New York have curfews, discouraging people from using them at night, Danger said.

He believes public spaces should be freed up for more uses, and was thrilled to hang out at Sugar Beach in the evening.

Another highlight was the bake ovens at Dufferin Park, he said.

"You guys have a pizza oven in a park!" he said. "That's so cool. People can come together and cook."

What Toronto could learn from New York: Public exercise spaces.

One of Danger's favourite places in New York is Tompkins Square Park, which features a variety of playground and exercise equipment. Such facilities not only promote health, he said, but also encourage people of all ages to see public space as a site of play.

"It's a place where a four-year-old can climb, or an 80-year-old can get some exercise," he said.

ALEX LIM, 23, SEOUL

Alex Lim. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Alex Lim runs Awesome School, an entrepreneurship education company for youth in South Korea.

In contrast to what he called the "one-track" nature of public education in the country, his company offers youth the chance to "learn by doing."

What he likes about Toronto: Public consultations.

Although South Korea is fully democratic, Lim said, it's unusual for elected officials to consult citizens on day-to-day issues of governance. He called Toronto's public consultation system — which asks residents for their input on everything from zoning changes to cycling plans — a "privilege."

Lim also commented on the friendliness of people in Toronto.

"Everyone is so upbeat and positive," he said. "That impressed me the most."

What Toronto could learn from Seoul: Integrated transit systems.

While Toronto is still struggling to implement the Presto card on the TTC, Lim said South Korea has harmonized its fare system for public transit nationwide. The card can even be used to pay for taxis, he said.

"I really don't get the little tokens you have here," he said.

Lim also said that in Seoul, the entire subway network — not just a few stations — has Wi-Fi.

NILOFER HABIBULLAH, 26, BANGKOK

Nilofer Habibullah. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Nilofer Habibullah recently completed medical school and now works with HIV-affected groups in Thailand's capital city.

What she likes about Toronto: Diversity.

Bangkok has a diverse population of ex-pats, but Habibullah said different ethnic communities often live in their own enclaves. Walking around Toronto during her week-long stay, she was struck by how multicultural so many places in the city seemed.

"Toronto is a true microcosm of so many different cultures," she said.

What Toronto could learn from Bangkok: Community health programs.

In Bangkok, rates of infectious disease, particularly HIV/AIDS, are high, Habibullah said. As a result, she said, the city has had to develop innovative health initiatives centred around community education and empowerment. The programs encourage residents to take charge of their own health, Habibullah said, and lead to more resilient communities.

"Toronto could take a page from Bangkok's book by enhancing its primary care work and community health programming," she said.

ADVERTISING

WHY THOUSANDS OF CANADIANS CHOOSE TO INVEST IN ECUADOR?

Having created a stir in February by becoming the first foreign country to advertise itself during the Super Bowl, Ecuador has reminded the world that it has all it needs to be appealing to travellers: the Galapagos Islands, the Andes, the Amazon, volcanoes, beaches and the culture of the indigenous people are just a few reasons to visit. Somewhat less known, however, is that more and more Canadians are settling there seasonally or permanently, thanks to a Canadian company established there since 2010: HolaEcuador.

About Ecuador...

- **Best country in the world for retirement** - International Living, 2008-2013, 2015
- **13th in the world for the effectiveness of healthcare** – Bloomberg Magazine, 2014
- **No hurricanes**

COMBINE VACATIONS AND REVENUE...

«I've been thinking about **preparing my retirement in the south** for years.» says Tim Jones. «From the start, what really impressed me with HolaEcuador was that I was **signing a contract with a Canadian company**. I know I'm protected by our laws and everything is done in my own language. It's reassuring. Then, of course, there is the cost of living which is three times lower than in Canada, very affordable properties and the fact that the most beautiful months of the year are January to March, precisely the months during which I want to have my feet in the sand! Throughout the rest of the year, I can easily rent out my house: there are rental management companies on site. **For less than US$ 95,000, I have my turnkey house** just a 10 minute walk from the beach in a Canadian community with 24/7 security. In Costa Rica, the same thing would have cost me **at least 3 times more**!"

...OR MAKE IT A LIFE PROJECT

When asked about what motivated them to move abroad to Ecuador, Josie and Martin reply, in unison: «the freezing cold!». «And the cost of living,» adds Martin. «For us, it was also an opportunity to start a business. We went there to establish contacts and we just fell in love with the country. The people are so friendly and easy-going. With the information given to us by HolaEcuador and by doing a little digging for information ourselves, we plan to take the plunge in the next year. The visa is easy to obtain and if you own a property in Ecuador worth US$ 25,000 or more, you can apply for permanent residence.»

Regardless of the project, HolaEcuador offers three interesting alternatives: fourplex OCEANFRONT condos, turnkey houses with semi-private pool or the purchase of a lot with 5 years to build a custom designed home.

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OTTAWA : Thursday, May 7, 7 p.m.
Westin Hotel, 11 Colonel By Drive
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Tight slots for new mailboxes

CANADA POST

Not much space on city streets for super boxes, councillor says

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

A Toronto city councillor is demanding answers as Canada Post continues its rollout of super mailboxes and phases out door-to-door delivery.

"It is unacceptable to do this without consultations," Ward 31 Coun. Janet Davis said.

Among her biggest concerns is how new community mailboxes — designed to serve multiple houses in a single location — will physically fit onto some of Toronto's most tightly packed streets.

"In my ward, it's block after block with only narrow lots and very small yards," Davis said. "Where are they going to put them?

"These mailboxes will create a lot of accessibility issues on the sidewalks for pedestrians and cyclists."

Davis drafted a motion asking city staff for a detailed report on the impact of the super boxes. Nine other councillors supported the request, and a report is expected in June.

Canada Post plans to gradually phase-out door-to-door delivery by 2019, and Toronto is expected to be one of the last cities to see super mailboxes installed.

But, the boxes have already made their way into many suburban areas since Canada Post announced the plan in 2014, and not everyone is happy.

Hamilton recently passed a bylaw that requires Canada Post to consult with city staff on each new community mailbox it installs. Canada Post has challenged the bylaw in court, and the city, meanwhile, has filed a motion to stop mailbox installation.

Both parties are set to present their cases in court later this month.

Along with the size of the super boxes, Davis says she's worried about other issues, including who will foot the bill for maintenance.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The super mailboxes being installed now have been updated from the ones Canada Post first rolled out in subdivisions during the 1980s. Today's boxes have the following perks:

1 LOCATION

Boxes serve 16 addresses each. They're generally placed side-by-side to serve whole streets or neighbourhoods.

2 SIZE

Each is 164 centimetres tall.

3 DESIGN

They have outgoing mail slots.

4 CAPACITY

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Toronto home prices continue to soar to $1.04 million average price... Who Cares?

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- You don't need to open an expensive office.
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- You don't need to spend a lot of time to start
- You don't even need to travel to the US – but you may want to spend some time in the sun visiting your money-making properties!

And if you have ever wanted to explore real estate investing, but were concerned about the high prices and bloated GTA market, then you're going to love this FREE training!

This Mystery Multi- Millionaire's system lets you get profit-generating properties – in major US tourist areas – for less than 5% down!

This event deserves your attention, and here are just a few more reasons why you need to attend:

- The plunging Canadian dollar makes for uncertain economic times...you need to take control of your life NOW.
  - — Average Canadian is $124,838 in debt with over $10,000 in credit card debt.
  - — Over 70% of Canadians believe they will have to work past the traditional retirement age.
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- You care about your family, and you want the best for them. This event will open your eyes to all you can really do for the people you love when you are finally the master of your financial success.
- His strategies are for everyone, even if you have absolutely no experience in buying or selling properties.

He has already shown hundreds of people just like you the ways to invest successfully in real estate – especially when the bottom is falling out of their home market – and his students' success just makes his success even greater. He's breaking his back to share his system because it works – and it can work for you.

This will be the best 2 hours of your life, but you have to register to get your seat at this event. Let this Multi-Millionaire give you his step-by-step system for real estate success. Claim your seat now and get a bonus gift, your **Million Dollar Investor Tool Kit for FREE! (A $187.00 value!!)**

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If you're working hard these days without enough to show for it, I understand. I used to work hard myself – the 18-hour days – the 7-day weeks. I was a struggling musician – a concert pianist – trying to provide for my 4 kids in Montreal. I got married at 18 and had those 4 kids by the time I was 23, and I wound up a stay-at-home dad (not by choice!). But I never made real money until I discovered the secrets of investing successfully in US real estate – and then I was able to work a lot less.

Once my friends saw how well I was doing, they all wanted to get involved. It's funny – for 6 long struggling years, I had no friends, I was the crazy "black sheep" of the family who always needed to get a REAL job, and suddenly, they were all asking ME for advice!

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— Dianan D., Ottawa, ON

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— Steeve R., Montreal, QC

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— Lana, Montreal, QC

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— Julian and David

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— Cliff

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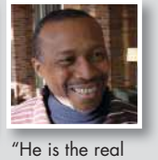

"He is the real deal!"
— Stephen

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metro EXPLAINS

How to throw an old-school block party

That "Toronto Block Party 2015" Facebook event with 13,000 RSVPs was a marketing campaign. What's better than a Facebook scam? Throwing a real old-school block party. Here's how to do it. **Jessica Smith Cross/Metro**

1 Choose a location

The easiest place to throw a party is on private property. Road closures require a permit. You could also throw a small party in a city park.

2 Decide how many people to invite

If you want to throw a party in a park, you'll need a permit if you have more than 25 guests. Too many guests will invite police scrutiny.

3 Pick some music

A party isn't a party without jams, so you're going to want to apply for a temporary noise exemption if the music will exceed 85 decibels.

4 Decide on food and booze

You'll need a special licence to drink in public, and if there will be vendors selling food, you need to run that by the city first.

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FW-13: METRO

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Wallace tapped for city manager job

MUNICIPAL POLITICS

Queen's Park veteran has been praised by premier

Peter Wallace
STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The man poised to be the city's new top bureaucrat is a veteran Queen's Park public servant who weathered some of the province's most recent scandals, Torstar News Service has learned.

Peter Wallace, who retired as cabinet secretary and head of Ontario's public service last year, is expected to return as city manager after being tapped by Mayor John Tory and a group of executive councillors.

His appointment must be confirmed by a city-council vote at a meeting next week.

The city manager is arguably the most powerful non-political job in the city, with more than 35,000 employees reporting to him. As city manager, Wallace would work closely with Tory's office, which includes several former Queen's Park staffers from both sides of the floor, and would be responsible for the city's major divisions, including its finances.

A source told Torstar that the mayor's office and the councillors who selected him see Wallace as a "real win" for the city.

They added that Tory — who made the rare move to mayor without previously serving as a councillor — and the executive team were attracted to Wallace because he, too, is an outsider who "has the ability to be a change agent."

Wallace did not respond to a request for comment.

On Thursday, Tory told reporters someone had been selected for the job but he refused to say who ahead of council.

When Wallace left Queen's Park to spend a year as a fellow at University of Toronto's School of Public Policy and Governance, Premier Kathleen Wynne spoke highly of his "exemplary service."

Tony Dean, who previously served as cabinet secretary and now also teaches at U of T, said Wallace is an experienced and fiscally prudent leader who is "unafraid to speak truth to power."

With current deputy manager John Livey thought to be in the running for the city-manager job, it's not clear how councillors will react to an outsider candidate, but the selection is not likely to fail with the mayor's backing.

The appointment will first be discussed in a private session of council next week before being decided during the public portion of the meeting.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Vince Farago, left, and his friend Tyler Sammy play bubble soccer at Trinity Bellwoods Park on Oct. 5, 2014. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SPORTS

Soccer's better with bubbles

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

If you've ever wanted to raise money for a good cause while playing soccer inside a giant, inflatable hamster ball, now's your chance.

Toronto Bubble Ball Fest 2015 is coming on the May long weekend. Organized by non-profit Sperro, the event will help raise funds to build homes and deliver health education in Belize.

"Bubble ball has been around in Toronto for a while, but what Sperro has done is bring it outdoors, which hasn't been done in the city before," said organizer Darya Denha.

The tournament will take place May 18, rain or shine, at Crawford Academy Field (531 Finch Ave. W.) starting at 10 a.m. Tickets are $20 to play or $5 to watch.

Also known as Zorb football, bubble ball has its origins in Norway. The sport resembles soccer, except players are encased in inflatable balls that cover their upper bodies.

"It's actually extremely athletic," Denha said. "You have to be in the suit and roll around and fall down while trying to score points."

Interest in bubble ball does seem to be growing in Toronto. A number of companies have sprung up offering the activity as entertainment for parties, and a bubble-ball league is expected to be fully inflated by August.

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Women scarce on TTC board

TRANSIT

Candidates recommended for 4 vacancies are all men

More than half the TTC's 1.8 million daily riders are women. But there will be only one woman among 11 TTC board members if city council approves the latest recommendations for citizen commissioners.

The civic appointments committee, chaired by Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong, is recommending four men with corporate executive experience for the four available spots on the TTC board. If council approves, Councillor Shelley Carroll would be the sole woman on the Toronto Transit Commission.

One of the men, Rick Byers, ran as the provincial Progressive Conservative candidate in Oakville in 2007, during Mayor John Tory's time as party leader. He also has "28 years of work experience in the accounting, finance and infrastructure industries," says a biography in the committee's minutes.

Another, Kevin Marshman, was a vice-president at Rogers Communications between 1992 and 1998, a period that includes Tory's time as president of that company.

> **The candidates applied ... and were duly selected.**
> Amanda Galbraith, mayor's spokeswoman

The mayor's spokeswoman said neither Tory nor his office had anything to do with the recommendations. City rules prohibit the mayor or his staff from being involved in the appointments process, she said.

"The mayor has no personal relationship with Mr. Marshman. With respect to Mr. Byers, yes, the mayor is acquainted with him," Amanda Galbraith said.

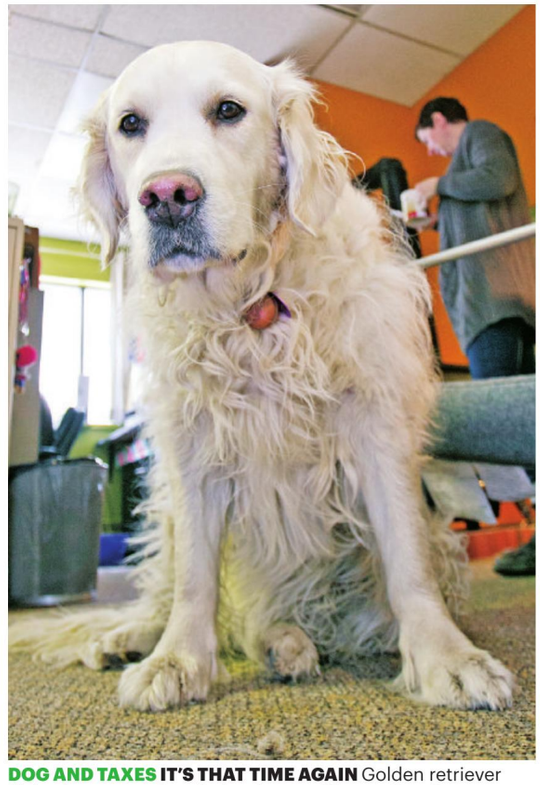
"The candidates applied and went through an independent process like all others and were duly selected by members of the civic appointments committee," said Galbraith.

Councillor Paula Fletcher, who sits on the committee, said her objections to the lack of diversity and women among the chosen candidates were ignored.

"Either there's something very wrong with women in the city of Toronto or something very wrong with the civic appointments committee, and I believe it's the latter," she said.

Chair Minnan-Wong did not return calls to Torstar News Service on Thursday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



DOG AND TAXES IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN Golden retriever Eloise keeps watch at Artbooks tax office on Spadina near Bloor St. Owner Amanda Mills says interacting with Eloise helps clients relax every year at tax time. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

IN BRIEF

Charges laid in robbery of money, white cane

A Mississauga man has been arrested after a visually impaired man was robbed last Saturday.

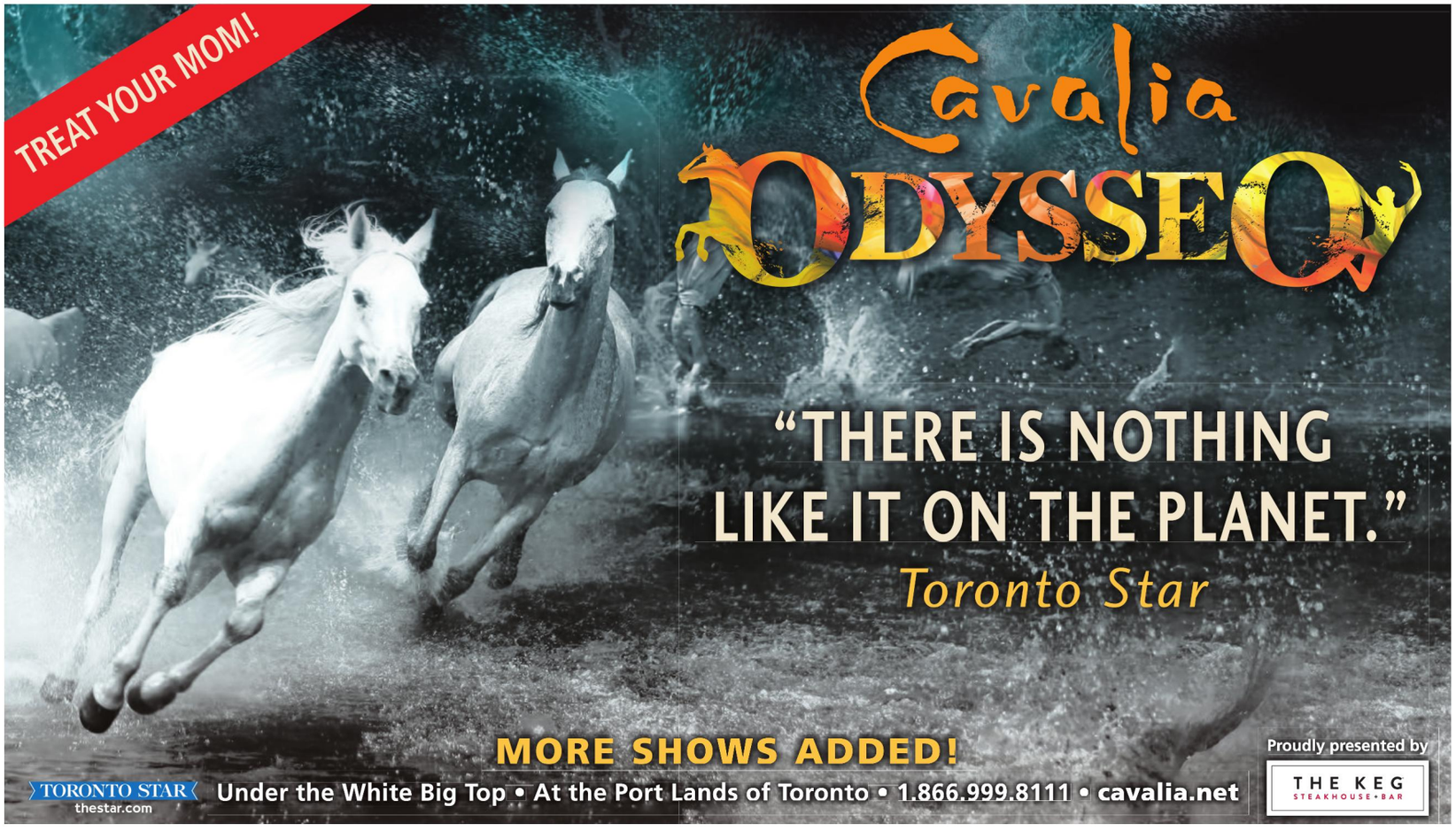
Toronto police say a 57-year-old man was getting off a bus near Morningside Ave. and Beath St. at about 12:30 a.m. when he was approached by a man who cut his throat and took his wallet and his white mobility cane.

Emilio Georgiev, 22, faces charges including robbery and assault causing bodily harm. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Man injured in fall from billboard to roof

Paramedics say a man suffered "potentially serious" injuries after falling from a billboard onto a roof early Thursday at Eglinton Avenue West and Vaughan Road.

According to Toronto Fire district Chief Stephan Powell, the man was working on the billboard when he fell 10 to 15 feet onto steel girders below. It is unclear if he was wearing a harness when he fell. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Carol Burbank preps vintage finds for her clothing rental service, Pret a Preter. LIZ BEDDALL / METRO

Affordable, fair and fashionable

CLOTHING

Comedian calls on Canadian retailers to source ethically

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

If John Oliver is making you feel a little guilty about where you've been buying your clothes, don't worry, there are ways to buy ethical-doubt-free clothing in Toronto — but it's not easy.

Oliver, the host of HBO's comedic news program Last Week Tonight, delivered a pile of cheap dumplings to the Toronto headquarters of Joe Fresh earlier this week to raise awareness of the ethical problems in the supply chains of clothing companies. He targeted fast fashion companies like Joe Fresh, which sell loads of clothes cheaply, risking sweatshop conditions from contractors down their supply chain.

The idea behind Oliver's more-serious-than-silly gag was that the company's leaders should eat the extremely cheap dumplings without knowing exactly who made them or where they came from.

It was timed to the two-year anniversary of the Rana Plaza factory collapse in Bangladesh that killed 133 garment workers and injured over 2500.

What John Oliver didn't include in his bit is how to buy clothes ethically on a budget.

Tarah Burke, who researches ethical sourcing and teaches at Toronto post-secondary schools, said the big problem with finding ethical fashion is that most companies don't give out information on the conditions of the workshops where their clothes are made. Those that do are generally mistrusted by the public, she said.

"Look at how the corporations are communicating with you. If the information isn't there, it's probably not ethical," she said.

Burke says a number of companies are doing a good job, but most that she identifies are outdoor apparel, like Mountain Equipment Co-op and Patagonia, or are higher-end, less affordable brands.

Burke argues that her $300 boots from J. Crew — one of the few fashion companies that makes its sourcing transparent — will last for years, bringing her more value for money than buying several pairs from a fast-fashion company.

> **If the information isn't there, it's probably not ethical.**
> Tarah Burke

"Think about the quality and longevity of it," she said.

Burke is part of Fashion Takes Action, which is running a campaign to get major clothing companies to be transparent about their suppliers, because people want to know if they're ethically okay to shop there.

That doesn't mean they can't have factories around the world, it just means they should be identified so it's possible to tell if the workers are safe and decently paid.

STYLE FOR RENT

An ethical way to be a fashionista for a day

One way of avoiding ethical doubt is to go vintage, said Carol Burbank, who runs the pop-up clothing library and styling service Pret a Preter.

She rents vintage clothes for $20 to $80 per piece.The higher end of the price range is a gown that requires careful cleaning between uses. The women who rent clothes tend to be happier because they're doing an ethical thing, Burbank said.

"The goal is essentially to get women wearing the same kind of fashion they lust after in the fast-fashion chains, but wearing the high-end version of it," she said.

JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

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Rob Ford fires back after critical report

CITY HALL

Former mayor fires back at ombudsman evidence

The City of Toronto won't say if any managers were disciplined for a litany of security failures uncovered by the ombudsman, while former mayor Rob Ford denies the report's evidence that he made unreasonable demands on city hall guards.

Fiona Crean's scathing 67-page report, released Thursday, chronicles Ford's use of security officers as though they were personal bodyguards, and several instances in which officers helping him dodge reporters and cover up his substance abuse, including blocking a surveillance camera when he appeared intoxicated.

An unrepentant Ford fired back at Crean in a lengthy statement Thursday beginning with a complaint that her use of titles didn't keep him anonymous enough: "I would like to know why some staff are referred to in general terms, such as 'Guard', or 'Supervisor', when others are given titles that directly identify who is being referenced? Do Directors, the CCO, and myself, as then-Mayor, not have that same right to confidentiality?"

Councillor Rob Ford, speaking about his cancer treatment in May. STEVE RUSSELL/TORONTO STAR

Crean's exhaustive probe concludes that inadequate training and security's unwillingness to say "no" to Ford contributed to chaotic scenes, including a mass rush up city hall stairs, where a photographer and guard were knocked down, and the city council meeting where Ford knocked over Councillor Pam McConnell, giving her a fat lip and whiplash.

Acknowledging it was an "unprecedented" time, Crean said senior managers' "hands-off approach" included failing to properly investigate complaints, and failing to promptly address obvious problems.

"This failure to act had repercussions," Crean wrote.

"It created an unsafe work environment for the guards, staff, elected officials, the public and the media."

City spokeswoman Jackie DeSouza refused to say if anybody was or will be disciplined, for the failings in 2013 and 2014 identified by Crean.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR'S PICKS: FILMS AT HOT DOCS

Toronto's Hot Docs festival continues through Sunday, featuring films from 44 countries at venues across the city. You can get the full rundown at hotdocs.ca. Here's some of what we're liking from the weekend schedule.

Pervert Park

An inside look at Florida Justice Transitions, a trailer park that's home to 120 convicted sex offenders. The film confronts the issue of reintegrating sex offenders into society after their release from prison, using interviews with the offenders themselves to provide a look inside their lives.

CONTRIBUTED

Where: Hart House Theatre (7 Hart House Circle)
When: Friday, 7 p.m.
Tickets: Rush only (lineup starts one hour in advance)
Length: 77 minutes

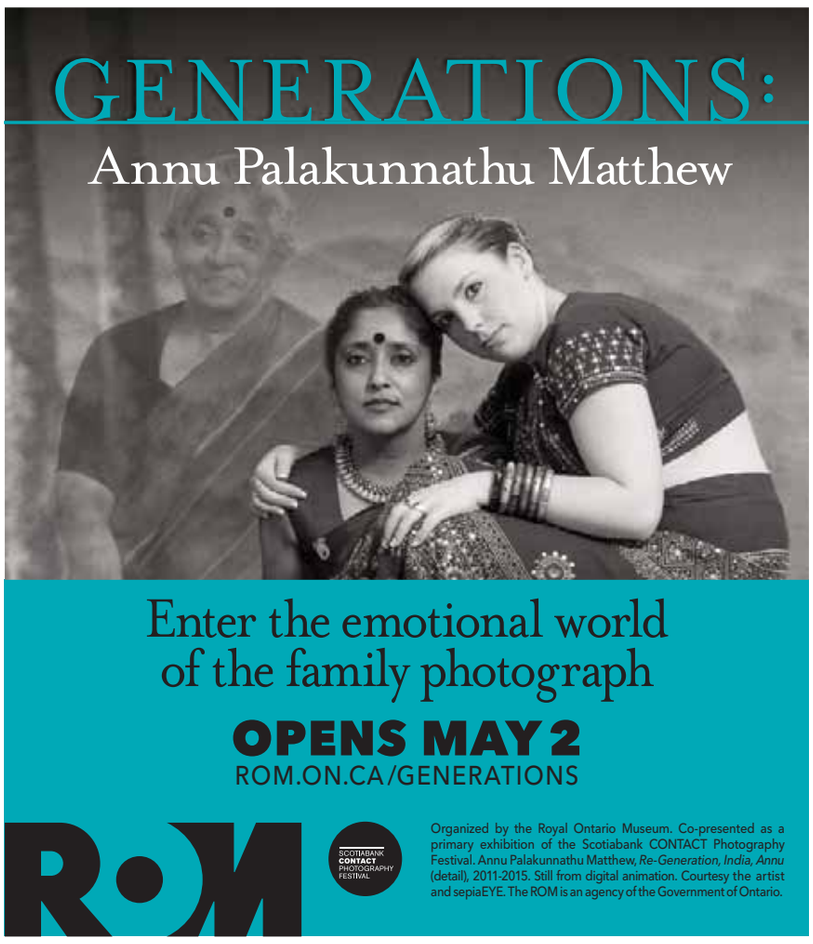
CONTRIBUTED

The Nightmare

Acclaimed Room 237 director Rodney Ascher is behind what's best described as a "real-life documentary horror film" that takes viewers inside the experiences of eight people who suffer from sleep paralysis. The condition was the inspiration for A Nightmare on Elm Street.

Where: Revue Cinema (400 Roncesvalles Ave.) on Saturday; TIFF Bell Lightbox (350 King St. W.) on Sunday
When: Saturday, 9:15 p.m.; Sunday, 9:30 p.m.
Tickets: Rush only on Saturday; $15.05 on Sunday
Length: 91 minutes

METRO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Fears for father imprisoned in China

CIVIL RIGHTS

Another eight year sentence for spiritual practice

A Toronto man is worried about his father's health after the older man was sentenced last week to eight years in a Chinese prison for speaking out about repression of the banned spiritual practice Falun Gong.

Paul Li, who has Canadian citizenship, was released a few days after he was arrested by Chinese authorities in April 2014 alongside his father, Li Xiaobo.

Now, he's working to appeal his father's conviction and raise awareness about his case through Falun Dafa Canada.

The father and son were in a rural area distributing flyers about Falun Gong when someone reported them to police.

"They simply grabbed us and put us into the police station, just because we are believers of Falun Gong," Li said.

Their home was ransacked. Their laptops and materials about Falun Gong were seized, he said.

Falun Gong is a central part of his father's life, Li said, and something he's dedicated to fighting for.

Xiaobo was a successful businessman in China before the government deemed Falun Gong illegal in 1999. He continued to practise and promote it after that, spending eight years in prison — from 2004 to 2012 — for his dedication to that cause.

Xiaobo was deprived of sleep and food while serving his previous prison sentence, Li said. He's worried his father — who's turning 60 this year and has failing eyesight — won't live to see the end of another eight years behind bars. JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

An old family photo of Li Xiaobo and his son Paul Li. CONTRIBUTED

HEALTH

Law forbids taking inhalers from kids

Ontario has made it illegal for schools to keep inhalers away from kids suffering from asthma following the death of a 12-year-old boy.

Ryan's Law is named for Ryan Gibbons, who died Oct. 9, 2012, after suffering an asthma attack during recess. His school in Strafordville, southeast of London, did not allow him to keep his puffer with him, despite repeated efforts by his mother and a doctor's note.

"You would give him an inhaler but then he would get caught with the inhaler and then it would be taken away," Sandra Gibbons said Thursday.

"Then I'd get a phone call. So it was actually very frustrating. I didn't understand why. I didn't realize that the policy actually stated that the prescribed medication needed to be in the office."

Gibbons said her son was an energetic boy who loved motorbikes and hiking.

"There's so much I can say about him, and it's just really hard because it's just — you miss him," she said through tears.

It seems like a matter of common sense that kids would have access to their life-saving medication, said Progressive Conservative MPP Jeff Yurek, who introduced the private member's bill passed unanimously Thursday.

School boards across the province had a patchwork of policies on inhalers, and though some provinces have policies similar to Ryan's Law, the Asthma Society of Canada's president and CEO said he believes Ontario will be the first to enact a law.

> **It's because asthma is so common, we can easily forget it's a very dangerous disease and it can be fatal.**
>
> George Habib, president and CEO of the Ontario Lung Association

"There are still school boards all across this country and schools within those boards that don't allow children to carry their puffers," said Rob Oliphant.

"It's usually part of a blanket understanding of medications. So they say medications are unsafe, they have that idea in their head, so they lock them up in the principal's office." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tory MPP Jeff Yurek
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Deacon accused of sexual assault

A minister at a North York church was arrested Tuesday in connection with a sexual-assault investigation.

On Jan. 17, a 20-year-old man was lured into the basement of the Mount Zion Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church near Sheppard Avenue and Keele Street and was sexually assaulted, Toronto police say.

Nonie Abrece, 33, a deacon at the church, has been arrested in relation to the incident and charged with sexual assault. He is scheduled to appear in court on June 9.
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Cpl. Ashley Turner goes through M72 light anti-tank weapon drills at the Kabul Military Training Centre range in Kabul, Afghanistan on Nov. 4, 2013. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Military's sexualized culture

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Ex-judge's report shows misogynistic behaviour

Being called an ice princess or a slut, or told that they only joined the army to find a man: Those are just some examples of the misogynistic, highly sexualized culture that pervades the Canadian military and confronts its female members every day, a sexual-misconduct review said Thursday.

Eradicating that culture will take time and a concerted effort from military leadership, former Supreme Court justice Marie Deschamps said in her report — a conclusion agreed to by top Canadian Forces brass.

They part ways, however, on the question of whether the problem can be resolved within the military itself or whether it demands outside help.

Deschamps' study, made public Thursday, documented a sexualized culture that new soldiers encounter the minute they join.

The result is an environment where women are afraid to report allegations of sexual harassment or assault because they fear career repercussions or not being believed by the chain of command, the report found.

One of Deschamps' key recommendations is to take the existing complaint and support process outside the military bureaucracy and create an independent agency, similar to those in the U.S. and Australia.

Gen. Tom Lawson, chief of the defence staff, called the idea "unique," and "interesting" but said it requires further study.

In the end, the military only accepted two of the report's 10 recommendations — that they acknowledge there is a problem and that a broad culture shift is required to fix it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tories face backlash over expensive ads

Happy-looking families, soccer-playing children and friendly neighbours are a staple of prime-time television these days as the Conservative government churns out post-budget advertising spots with the use of millions of dollars in taxpayers' money.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says it's needed to make the public aware of Ottawa's programs.

But the government ad blitzes, which have cost an estimated $750 million since Harper took power, are fuelling a fierce pushback from those who see the messaging as too pro-Conservative.

PM Stephen Harper
THE CANADIAN PRESS

COST OF ADS

$52.3 million
The 2009 budget, known as the Economic Action Plan.

$2.5 million
A campaign to promote the Canada Job Grant in 2013, a program that did not exist.

$24 million
Ads placed in Washington, D.C. from the Canadian government to drum up support for the Keystone XL.

$13.5 million
The Tories plan to spend this amount to promote their pre-election budget.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) says the ads are torqued for partisan gain, are a waste of precious financial resources and an affront to democratic fairness.

"It seems to me that everyone agrees the amount that's being spent now is too much," said CTF federal director Aaron Wudrick.

The Conservatives have often been criticized for the 2013 Canada Job Grant ads, which ran before the program existed.

Federal opposition parties have also stepped up their complaints about the television, radio, billboard and online ads in the wake of the Harper government's pre-election budget.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, meets with former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien in the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, Russia, Thursday.

ALEXEI NIKOLSKY/RIA-NOVOSTI, KREMLIN POOL PHOTO VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chretien visits Putin, defies PM

POLITICS

Meets with Russian leader despite tensions

Russia's news agency is reporting that former Liberal prime minister Jean Chretien met Russian President Vladimir Putin in one of his palaces near Moscow on Thursday.

The meeting is a slap to the Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, which has moved to isolate the Russian leader politically, blaming him for the unrest in Ukraine and Russia's annexation of Crimea last year.

Harper has avoided direct contact with Putin, save for a brief and memorable handshake at the G20 summit in Australia last year, at which he tersely told the Russian leader to "get out" of Ukraine.

Putin is seen smiling at Chretien in a photo by the TASS news agency, that shows the two men seating in gold-and-white arm chairs in an ornate room.

Another news agency posted video of the meeting on YouTube.

"Putin and Chretien exchanged opinions on the current status of international affairs and discussed the painful points of current international situation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in the TASS report.

There was no immediate comment from Harper or Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Teachers' fight goes to Supreme Court

A bitter battle between British Columbia teachers and the provincial government is headed for the Supreme Court of Canada.

The province's highest court ruled Thursday that the government did not violate teachers' charter rights to bargain class size and composition, reversing a lower-court decision in favour of the union.

The B.C. Teachers Federation said it will seek to appeal the latest decision in Canada's top court.

"All teachers are asking for are workable, teachable classrooms," said union president Jim Iker. "We're asking for the government to give us the resources that will help us do our work — teaching our students."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIRST NATIONS

Reserve declares state of emergency

A reserve under one of the longest boil-water advisories in Canada has declared a state of emergency after the ferry connecting it to the outside world failed to pass inspection.

Shoal Lake 40 was cut off from the mainland a century ago to build an aqueduct which supplies the city of Winnipeg with fresh water.

The reserve, which straddles the Ontario-Manitoba border, has no all-weather road and has been under a boil-water advisory for 17 years.

Without the ferry, people on the man-made island have no way to get groceries or bottled water.

Chief Erwin Redsky says the community's survival is at stake.

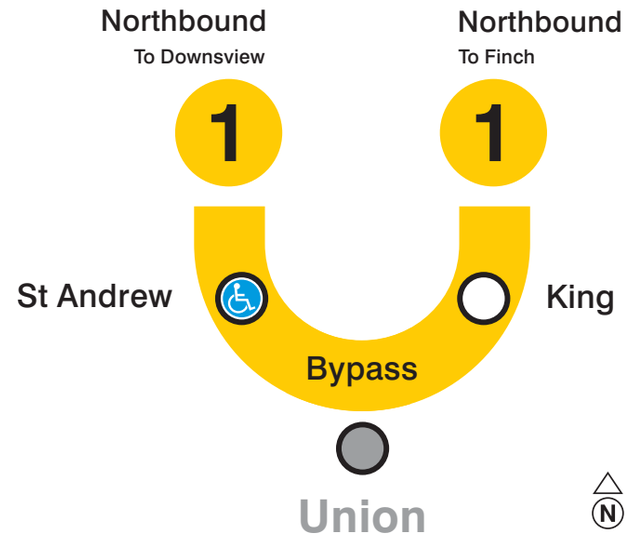
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Station Bypass

1 Union Station

May 2 and 3, 2015

Trains will bypass Union Station in both directions.



For detailed service information, call 416-393-4636 or visit ttc.ca

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

Two saved from wreckage five days after earthquake

NEPAL

Rescue brings unexpected joy to city reeling from disaster

Pemba Tamang is carried on a stretcher on Thursday, after being rescued by Nepalese policemen and U.S. rescue workers from a building that collapsed five days ago in Kathmandu, Nepal. NIRANJAN SHRESTA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 15-year-old boy had been buried alive under the rubble of Nepal's quake-stricken capital for five days, listening to bulldozers clearing mountains of debris, fearful the incessant aftershocks might finally collapse the darkened crevice where he was trapped.

And then, "all of a sudden I saw light," Pemba Tamang said, recounting the moment he was pulled from a hole at the bottom of what was once a seven-storey building in Kathmandu.

Tamang did not know whether he was alive or dead. "I thought I was hallucinating," he said.

The rescue was an uplifting moment in Nepal, which has been overwhelmed by death and destruction since a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Saturday.

By late Thursday, the government said the toll from the tremor, the most powerful recorded there since 1934, had risen to 6,130 dead and 13,827 injured.

After night fell, police reported another dramatic rescue: a woman in her 20s, Krishna Devi Khadka, was pulled from a building in the same neighbourhood as Tamang near Kathmandu's main bus terminal, according to an officer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Nepal, however, is far from normal. More than 70 aftershocks have been recorded in the Himalayan region by Indian scientists in the past five days, according to J.L. Gautam, the director of seismology at the Indian Meteorological Department in New Delhi.

Shortages of food and water and worry over the fate of relatives have triggered an exodus from the capital, prompting thousands to board buses provided by the government to their rural hometowns.

> **It gives us hope. We thought they were only bringing out the dead. It's hard to believe people are still alive.**
> Hans Raj Joshi, who watched Tamang's rescue

"I have to get home. It has already been so many days," said Shanti Kumari, who was desperate to see family in her home village in eastern Nepal. "I want to get at least a night of peace."

Although small shops have begun reopening and the once-ubiquitous tent cities have begun thinning out, an air of desperation remains.

"We're still feeling aftershocks. It still doesn't feel safe," said Prabhu Dutta, a 27-year-old banker from Kathmandu.

Some residents have begun returning to work, including at Dutta's bank, but he said it was impossible to concentrate.

"We roam around the office. We only have one topic of conversation: the earthquake."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAKISTAN

Men get life for Malala attack

A Pakistani court on Thursday sentenced 10 militants to life in prison for their involvement in the 2012 attack on teenage activist Malala Yousafzai, a public prosecutor said.

Sayed Naeem said the court announced the ruling at an undisclosed location because of security concerns.

"Each militant got 25 years in jail. It is life in prison for the 10 militants who were tried by an anti-terrorist court," he said.

In Pakistan, 25 years is considered a life sentence.

Malala was shot in the head by the Pakistani Taliban when she was returning from school. The militants targeted her because she advocated education for women. Malala was initially treated in Pakistan but was later flown to a hospital in Britain, where she now lives with her family.

Malala, now 17, won world acclaim for her campaign and last year was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mullah Fazlullah, the Taliban leader who ordered the attack, is still at large, as are other militants who took part. The 10 who were sentenced on Thursday were detained by the military last year.

Also Thursday, the military said that 27 militants and five soldiers were killed in a gun battle in the country's volatile northwestern Khyber tribal region. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Boy, 11, detained at Lego store in Calgary

An 11-year-old boy's father says his son was detained for shopping by himself at Calgary's Lego store.

Doug Dunlop says his boy Tadhg went to the store Sunday to spend his own money, as he has done dozens of times before. Dunlop says the guard and the store's manager told him children under 12 are not allowed in the store without an adult because of safety concerns. Officials with Lego and Chinook Centre mall were not available for comment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court to decide if woman can sue energy firm

The Supreme Court of Canada will decide whether an Alberta woman can sue the province's energy regulator over her claim that hydraulic fracturing has so badly contaminated her well that the water can be set on fire.

She alleges that fracking on her land northeast of Calgary released hazardous amounts of chemicals such as methane into her well. THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 82.72¢ (-0.45¢)

TSX 15,297.04 (-50.30)

OIL $59.57 US (+0.99¢)

GOLD $1,182.60 US (-$27.40)

NATURAL GAS: $2.751 US (+14.5¢)
DOW JONES: 17,928.77 (-106.76)

EMPLOYMENT GM PLANS TO CUT 1,000 JOBS FROM OSHAWA PLANT A sign outside Oshawa's General Motors car assembly plant is shown in Oshawa, Ont. General Motors says it will cut about 1,000 positions from its Oshawa manufacturing operations this year as the company plans to spend billions of dollars to boost its U.S. operations. By December, GM Canada's main assembly operation is expected to have 2,600 hourly employees — down from 3,600. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Canadians less of a credit risk: Study

BANKS

National rates for delinquency 20% lower in immigrants

New Canadians are a better credit risk than the general population, even though banks still tend to view immigrant investors more cautiously due to a lack of financial background information, says a new Equifax Canada study.

"There is a common misconception that providing credit to new immigrants is a risky move for financial institutions, but the fact is that immigrants have a 20 per cent lower delinquency than the national average of the general population," explains Regina Malina, senior director of decision insights at Equifax Canada.

In her latest report, she says lenders often approach new Canadians with caution, and wind up presenting these customers with a limited product selection for credit due to a lack of insight into their credit history and risk score.

As a result, limited credit options tend to push customers to seek credit with another institution because the initial options available to them may not meet their changing needs.

Between 2006 and 2011, approximately 1.2 million people immigrated to Canada, primarily from China and India, and one of the first things newcomers do is apply for credit to secure housing, car loans and phones, she said.

The study is based on a sample of approximately 114,000 new immigrants identified within the Equifax database, who immigrated to Canada between 2010 and 2011. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHINA

Building firm says no one is faster

A Chinese construction company is claiming to be the world's fastest builder after erecting a 57-storey skyscraper in 19 working days in central China.

The Broad Sustainable Building Co. put up the rectangular, glass-and-steel Mini Sky City in the Hunan provincial capital of Changsha using a modular method, assembling three floors per day, company vice-president Xiao Changgeng said.

The company, which has ambitions to assemble the world's tallest skyscraper at 220 floors in only three months, worked on Mini Sky City in two spurts separated by winter weather. Its time-lapse video of the rapid assembly has become popular on Chinese video-sharing sites since it was first uploaded on YouTube.

Such modular approaches have been used for highrise apartment blocks elsewhere, including in Britain and the U.S. Some critics say the method could lead to cityscapes with overly uniform architecture.

The company is awaiting approval for its 220-floor Sky City in Changsha. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A puddle reflects the Mini Sky City building in Changsa. PENG PENG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
WEEKEND, May 1-3, 2015

Happy face/Sad face

From the **drought diet** to **lunchbox letdown**, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week

Bright lights banned on behalf of birds

New Yorkers are saying "lights out" to bright outdoor lights on government buildings between 11 p.m. and dawn during the spring and fall to help migrating birds find their way. Scientists believe birds use the stars to navigate, but they can be disorientated by electric lights, causing fatal run-ins with glass windows — the direct cause of a billion bird deaths per year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is it time to say adios to avocados?

The drought in California is taking a toll on crops like almonds and broccoli, but hardest hit may be avocados. Farmers pay premium prices for increasingly rare water, and avocados are thirsty — a pound needs 72 gallons to grow, compared to nine for tomatoes. If the drought continues, avocado prices will skyrocket — if they're available at all. If you love guacamole, maybe now's the time to binge. GRUBSTREET.COM

What your brain looks like on flakka

A spate of bizarre incidents in Florida have been blamed on Flakka, a synthetic drug similar to bath salts. One user ran around naked yelling he was Thor; another impaled himself on a fence. The drug, also called gravel, is cheap at $5 per vial, causes delusions and is dangerous: the people who spontaneously strip do so because the drug causes a spike in body temperature to a life-threatening 41 C.

That's the way the cookies don't crumble

A four-year-old girl in Denver came home from school disappointed, with untouched Oreos and a note from her teacher. The preschooler told her mom that she wasn't allowed to eat the cookies in her lunchbox because they weren't healthy enough. The note told her parents to pack a nutritious lunch that includes a fruit, vegetable and a healthy snack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Selfie sticks — please leave home without one

THE KOHLER REPORT
Rebecca Kohler

Organizers of Grand Slam tennis tournament, Wimbledon, announced this week that they will be banning selfie sticks from this year's event and I say, "Point Wimbledon!"

If you don't know, selfie sticks — sometimes referred to as "The Wand of Narcissus" or "narcissisticks" — are long poles to the end of which one attaches their smartphone, allowing for better, wider selfies.

The first time I saw a selfie stick in a store I thought it was a gag gift, akin to those wine glasses that hold an entire bottle of wine or fake doggy-doo.

When I realized it wasn't a joke, I wondered who could be SO dedicated to taking pictures of themselves that they needed a tripod — or uni-pod — to do it?

It's like investing in equipment for a company named Self-Love Incorporated.

I'm not saying I've never taken a selfie. Like smoking, it's the kind of thing most people have tried at least once — and those who haven't are probably boring and self-righteous like the people who brag about not being on Facebook.

And selfies can be really handy. Like when you're buying new glasses and you want a friend's opinion, or when you have a weird rash and need your mother's advice (it was eczema).

But on a recent trip to Mexico, I realized how out of hand the selfie and selfie-stick situation was. My boyfriend and I paid $150 each for a tour to the Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza. When we got off the tour bus, I saw a flurry of selfie sticks extending around me like a crowd of unfurling umbrellas reacting to a sudden rainstorm.

When did a picture of yourself in a place become more important than the place?

The earnest and well informed tour guide proceeded to show us around the grounds but upon each stop, half the group would walk away and proceeded to take selfies in front of the various dilapidated monuments.

It seemed so utterly wrong. "Here I am at Chichen Itza! A place I know nothing about because instead of learning, I choose to bask in self-admiration!"

It's like they'd paid $150 to be doing the exact same thing they do at home — stare at images of themselves. Except here they were able to spend more money doing it in a hot and dusty place.

It was distracting and super disrespectful, both to the tour guide and, frankly, to the late Mayans. But the most irritating part is that on Facebook, all these people will look less like the arseholes they are, and more like worldly, interested travellers.

When did a picture of yourself at the place become more important than the place? And if that's all you want, then go visit a green screen and have at 'er.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

"A searing portrait of harassment, abuse and rape"

We now know — beyond doubt — that military life is soaked in sexual harassment.

A report released Thursday details in 100-odd pages a sick "sexualized culture" in the Canadian Armed Forces. It's a searing portrait of harassment, abuse, rape and the silencing of victims.

But no perpetrators are held accountable in this report. It's focused on "policies, procedures and programs" around sexual misconduct and condemns all three.

Author and former judge Marie Deschamps wasn't asked by military brass to investigate assaults. They think they're already doing a good job with that. The report says they're wrong, and I can't understand why her recommendations don't call for a full investigation into cases that have been, as her report details, swept under the rug by a farcical complaints-resolution policy that treats sex crimes as misunderstandings.

Without that, military leaders, and criminals, can hide behind "the culture" — with no accountability in the ranks.

Culture is a wispy, hard-to-pin-down fog that lays blame on everyone and no one.

Gen. Tom Lawson, chief of the defence staff, and Maj.-Gen. Chris Whitecross — the woman tasked with implementing change — both admitted during a press conference to witnessing a sexualized work environment, something Lawson said "became uncomfortable" when women joined the ranks.

Deschamps documents "sexual jokes, innuendos, discriminatory comments ... and unwelcome sexual touching," which are conducive to "sexual harassment and assault."

One man told Deschamps, "girls that come to the Army know what to expect."

Military women (and LGBTQ) must conform to this environment, because filing complaints would risk their careers, the report says. Most choose the jobs they love over justice. They can't have both.

Lawson did promise change. "I will not accept anything less" than exemplary conduct, he said.

But from the gist of the report, he'd have a pretty barren barracks if every officer who didn't live up to his "exemplary" standards was expelled.

Maybe a truth and reconciliation program is needed, where senior officers and others admit to and apologize for their own behaviour without fear of reprisal.

Phillip Millar, a former officer and now a lawyer who represents military sexual assault victims, said such a program could mean a meaningful change in tone from on high. Otherwise, no one is going to admit to anything, he told me.

"Influential people, respected and good people, have allowed or engaged in it," he said. Given that, we shouldn't be surprised that "culture," not people, will be blamed.

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MANAGING EDITOR TORONTO
Angela Mullins

ADVERTISER INQUIRIES
adinfotoronto@metronews.ca
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FREE TO SHARE

PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan

THE TTC CONTINUES TO DELIVER ON SERVICE AND UPGRADING PROMISES

ANDY BYFORD
CEO
TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

As I've said before, delivering on our promises is a key commitment in our Five-Year Corporate Plan and a key step towards creating a transit system that makes Toronto proud.

To that end, I am pleased that we completed the first phase of our work on the College/Spadina intersection on time. We promised to restore the 506 College streetcar service by Monday and this duly happened after an intensive three week closure to replace worn out tracks.

The second phase of the work involves upgrading infrastructure on Spadina Avenue, which will wrap by May 9, thereby enabling restoration of the 510 Spadina streetcar service on May 10.

In a few weeks, we will complete the modernization of Union Station — before the Pan Am Games, just as we promised. This work has involved a comprehensive upgrade to one of our busiest stations and complements the second platform that we opened last year.

By the end of the year, we will install PRESTO smart card readers on all of our streetcars and 11 more subway stations. And by the end of 2016, we will complete the roll-out of PRESTO to our bus fleet and the remainder of the subway, a year ahead of schedule.

While we have had well-publicized setbacks with other projects, typically those that involve multiple third parties such as the Spadina subway extension to York Region, the TTC has a good record on delivering on our state of good repair projects and on other commitments such as those set out in our Customer Charter.

Our five-year plan commits us to getting better at keeping our promises and we are taking steps to do just that through better co-ordination with the City, improved project management tools and a re-examination of our processes.

TTC workers worked around the clock to get the College/Spadina project finished on schedule. Thank you to customers, residents and businesses for their patience.

JOIN THE TTC'S CUSTOMER LIAISON PANEL

Are you passionate about transit? The TTC is looking for new members of the Customer Liaison Panel, which was established in 2011 to bring a stronger customer focus to the organization, help understand customer priorities and develop customer experience improvements. The current panel has shaped initiatives like new fare payment methods, uniforms and signage. Find out more and apply online before May 17 at TTC.ca.

MAY IS ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

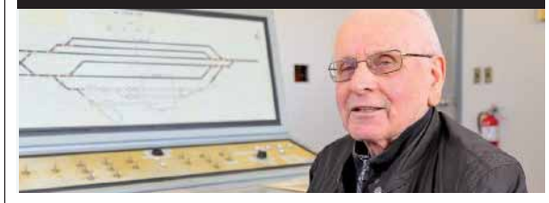
Take the TTC to special walking tours presented by Heritage Toronto in partnership with Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Chinatown:
May 6
- Spadina Avenue and Dundas Street with author Arlene Chan
- Take the 510 Spadina streetcar

Korea Town:
May 13
- Bloor Street between Bathurst and Christie with Jason Lee
- Take Line 2 Bloor-Danforth

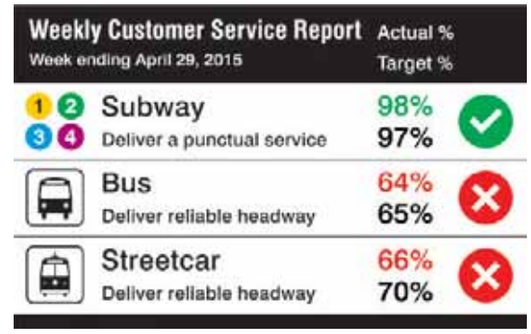
St. James Town and the Filipino Community:
May 2
- Bloor Street between Sherbourne and Parliament with Diana Roldan
- Take Line 2 to Sherbourne Station

EMPLOYEE PROFILE



Name:	Position:	Years of Service:
Robert Campbell	SRT Computer Technician	46

Since starting my career at the TTC I have seen many changes. I have enjoyed learning new technologies and challenges in providing a safe and reliable service to our customers. From the start I have been shown respect and help from my fellow workers which has made my career such a wonderful experience.



UNION STATION CLOSURE

This weekend on Sat., May 2 and Sun., May 3, Union Station will be closed as crews work to complete finishes at the concourse and platform levels. Train service will go through, but not stop at Union Station.

Customers can get to Union Station by walking from King or St Andrew, or take the 6 Bay bus. Regular service is scheduled to resume on Monday, May 4.

TORONTO MARATHON — EVENT ROUTES

On Sun., May 3 from 6 a.m. to noon, a number of TTC routes will divert for the annual GoodLife Fitness Toronto Marathon. Please leave additional travel time if travelling on the following routes: 5 Avenue Rd., 6 Bay, 26 Dupont, 14 Glencairn, 65 Parliament, 127 Davenport, 172 Cherry Street, 75 Sherbourne, 310-511 Bathurst, 320-97 Yonge buses or 504 King and 509 Harbourfront streetcars. For specific route details, visit ttc.ca.

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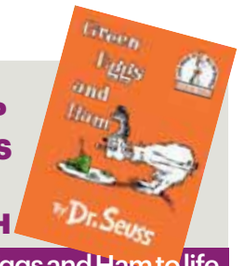

You can watch it in your house, you can watch it with a mouse! Netflix to bring Green Eggs and Ham to life

Superheroes need a reality check

ANALYSIS

Real-world problems could provide plot points for flicks

IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse

It's not a spoiler to let you know the Avengers save the world in Age of Ultron. The spectacular six have rescued the planet before and, no doubt, will save it again in the future. In superhero movies the globe is always on the eve of destruction.

The original movie, 2012's The Avengers, saw the team protect the planet from Thor's evil brother Loki while in Superman II, the Man of Steel battles three Kryptonian criminals set to obliterate our orb. A baddie named M tries to wage world war in The League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen and recently the Fantastic Four prevented a giant cosmic entity called Galactus from gobbling up the earth.

"I see a suit of armour around the world," says Tony Stark in Age of Ultron. "Peace in our time, imagine that."

The movies get bigger every time out and with 30 more superhero flicks scheduled for the next five years — including Deadpool, Doctor Strange and Gambit — the mind reels at the ways villains might endanger our world.

It sounds entertaining but haven't we've already been there? Where do you go from the threat of total annihilation?

Diminishing returns in terms of audience reaction, that's where.

We all know The Avengers will pull out all the stops to save Earth. Buildings will crumble, trucks will go airborne and giant cracks will appear where city streets used to be, but by the end credits you know everyone will emerge relatively unscathed, with the bad people vanquished and the good guys grinning from ear to ear.

Viewers are left with CGI fatigue, but damn it, a catastrophe was averted. Again.

But we've been there, done that. Why not freshen things up and turn back the hands of the doomsday clock a few minutes to create tension in the form of different kinds of situations?

It sounds counterintuitive — bigger is always better, right? — but imagine Captain America going mano a mano with Kim Jong-un or Iron Man shrinking down to the size of a microbe to battle cancer from the inside à la Fantastic Voyage.

The real world is a very complicated place. Every day the news delivers more bad information than all the tragedies of Aeschylus and Sophocles combined.

Stories of beheadings, terrorism and all manner of terrible behaviour flood the airwaves aching to be corrected by some sort of superhero.

How great would it be to see warrior princess of the Amazons Wonder Woman unleash the Lasso of Truth on the Canadian Senate or weather maven Storm get all medieval on climate change?

An injection of real-world issues might not make for big box office, but it certainly would infuse the movies with a sense of unpredictability — just like real life events. Real life is messy and volatile and that's what keeps it interesting.

What if the moviemakers pitted superheroes against the Canadian Senate or other things that trouble us in our day-to-day lives? CONTRIBUTED

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Avengers: Age of Ultron ★★
Far From The Madding Crowd ★★★
Ride ★★★
Preggoland ★★★
Can't Stand Losing You: Surviving The Police ★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

Ticket and Day Pass refunds

Effective May 1, 2015

2014 Senior/Student Tickets and Day Passes may no longer be used and can be returned for a refund.

2013 and 2014 Child Tickets can also be returned for a refund.

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Refund in Person

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Bloor-Yonge subway station, (Bloor Street East, southside entrance), Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Until February 29, 2016
TTC Customer Service Centre, 1900 Yonge Street, Toronto
Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(Extended hours, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every Thursday and the first and last business day of each month.)

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Now playing

COMEDY

She's Funny That Way

Director: Peter Bogdanovich
Starring: Imogen Poots, Owen Wilson

A married Broadway director (Owen Wilson) implores a call girl to turn her life around while the star of his latest production makes a play for his wife (Kathryn Hahn) in this ensemble comedy from director Peter Bogdonavich.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
No reviews yet	+83%

DRAMA

Avengers: Age of Ultron

Director: Joss Whedon
Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans

When Tony Stark jump-starts a dormant peacekeeping program, things go awry and Earth's Mightiest Heroes: Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, The Incredible Hulk, Black Widow and Hawkeye, are put to the ultimate test.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
73%	+99%

COMEDY

Preggoland

Director: Levan Gabriadze
Starring: Sonja Bennett, Danny Trejo

When Ruth ruins a baby shower with her drunken, juvenile antics, her old high school cronies, who are all mothers now, promptly defriend her. But when she is later mistakenly thought to be "with child," she is inexplicably welcomed back.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
No reviews yet	+62%

COMEDY

Ride

Director: Helen Hunt
Starring: Helen Hunt, Brenton Thwaites

In Ride, when an editor from The New Yorker (Helen Hunt) follows her son (Brenton Thwaites) to L.A. after he drops out of college to surf and find himself, she ends up being the one thrust into a sea change of self-discovery.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
88%	+86%

DRAMA

Far From The Madding Crowd

Director: Thomas Vinterberg
Starring: Carey Mulligan, Tom Sturridge

Based on the literary classic by Thomas Hardy, Far From The Madding Crowd is the story of independent, beautiful and headstrong Bathsheba Everdene (Carey Mulligan).

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
88%	+91%

DRAMA/SCI-FI

The Age of Adaline

Director: Lee Toland Krieger
Starring: Blake Lively, Michiel Huisman

After miraculously remaining 29 years old for almost eight decades, Adaline Bowman (Blake Lively) has lived a solitary existence. But a chance encounter with a charismatic philanthropist reignites her passion for romance.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
54%	71%

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Period piece heroine not defined by the era

ADAPTATIONS

Carey Mulligan drawn to her character's strength

Matt Prigge
Metro | New York

Carey Mulligan stars as Bathsheba Everdene in Far from the Madding Crowd. HANDOUT

Carey Mulligan says she wasn't really looking to do another period drama when Far from the Madding Crowd came along.

She's always done them, however, the role of Bathsheba Everdene — a headstrong, independent woman juggling three suitors to whom she's either indifferent or weirdly into — was too good to turn down.

The actress talks about how this Thomas Hardy adaptation was different and whether she'd ever do something bigger and splashier.

The uniqueness of Bathsheba Everdene: What I was so excited about was that it's a story that started with a woman who turned down a proposal of marriage. And a good one.

It's a young woman in one of the Victorian classics that doesn't start her story looking to be married and isn't looking to be defined by a man. It really hasn't crossed her mind that she would be married.

That was so exciting. That was obviously not the viewpoint of most women of the time. And throughout the story she enjoys bucking social conventions. She's incredibly complicated and stubborn and fallible and spontaneous and impetuous — all these things mixed together.

On the other actors: When you get to work with actors like this, there's a certain security — especially when you make an idiot of yourself in the first week, which is what I did.

On director Thomas Vinterbergh: We had so many extensive, long conversations, going around and around on things. And Thomas said things over and over and over again. It was really annoying. By the time we were on set we were set on an idea. It was a complete collaboration between all of our ideas. I was never going to fall into some kind of stereotype.

On the costumes: We wanted to feel like real people and not actors wearing outfits, not people wearing makeup — but still vaguely attractive in daylight.

> **It's a young woman in one of the Victorian classics that doesn't start her story looking to be married and isn't looking to be defined by a man.**
> Carey Mulligan, on Bathsheeba Everdene

We never wanted it to feel like a buttoned-up costume drama, where people wear outfits and look uncomfortable. It was about real people. The way Thomas shoots it's all about performances. The era is reflected in the costumes. The makeup and the hair, because we were outside all the time, could get ruined immediately.

It had to be endurable and functional. But they always made us look good, which was a bonus.

The idea of her ever taking an action movie role: Never say never to anything. The decisions I've made over the last couple years have been driven by the characters and the scripts and the directors.

I'm always drawn to really strong characters, but also characters that have a lot to them. I'm not really interested in playing two-dimensional people.

But what's amazing about Bathsheba is how complex and mixed-up and strong and resilient — she's just so many things in one. That's what I'm driven by. And if that came in the form of some action hero, then of course, that'd be great. But it might not happen.

SEQUEL

Avengers stars share fun facts

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

The followup to 2012's massive The Avengers promises to be even more gargantuan, with new superheroes, more story to tell and a one really shiny, really deadly villain. So here's what you need to know going into Avengers: Age of Ultron.

> **I could not have told you who they were, who I was, what movie I was making.**
> Joss Whedon, on getting lost in the film

1 Black Widow did not do her own stunts. "I don't think you're allowed to ride a motorcycle when you're still pregnant," Scarlett Johansson says. "I embarrassingly rode some sort of a mechanical bull type of motorcycle which goes nowhere and doesn't look cool at all. But we had some very professional and amazing motocross work being done that makes Black Widow look like a total badass."

2 Iron Man didn't do any meddling. According to franchise star Robert Downey Jr. — who kicked off the whole Marvel Cinematic Universe deal seven years ago with Iron Man — he didn't have to do any meddling with the script this time around. "I read (Joss Whedon's) script, I said, 'I think this is great.' (Marvel honcho) Kevin (Feige) said, 'You never say that, you can't mean that,'" Downey recalls. "I thought it was a Swiss watch to begin. So rather than dig in my heels and try to rewrite every scene ... I just showed up and it turned out great."

3 It nearly killed Joss Whedon. "There's like 47 of these people, and I really didn't think that through. And I regret very much doing this at all," jokes the writer-director, who was under tremendous pressure to follow up the critical and financial success of the first film. "At some point during the editing process, I could not have told you who they were, who I was, what movie I was making. I got so lost in it. But, I think it all came together."

4 James Spader got a crash-course in Marvel movie-making. The Blacklist star embodies the chillingly evil robot Ultron bent on destroying the Avengers — and humanity in general. And he barely had any time to get into character. "Luckily I'd had some conversations with Joss and one fantastic meal with a whole bunch of wine to figure out who this guy was," says Spader.

5 There are secrets the cast can't divulge. Mark Ruffalo, who stars as the Hulk, says their studio bosses have ways of making them not reveal spoilers. "You know, we have a Marvel app on our iPhones and if you say something wrong it literally shocks you," he says. OK, maybe they don't really, but we wouldn't put it past them. Speaking of secrets ...

6 Hawkeye speaks! Jeremy Renner's Hawkeye admittedly didn't get a whole ton of screen time in the first Avengers, so he gets a bit more attention this time around. "I speak in this movie, which is awesome," Renner jokes. "I understood Hawkeye in the sense of he's a human just with a high skill set, so I could tap into that."

7 Jarvis comes to life! One of the new characters on display is the much-anticipated Vision, played by Paul Bettany, who had previously only served as the voice of Tony Stark's computer system, Jarvis. "However, I now also have to show up at press junkets, so everything's a double edged sword."

Fact: Scarlett Johansson was pregnant during filming, so she did not do her own stunts in Avengers: Age of Ultron. HANDOUT

The Hunt for the perfect break

INTERVIEW

Helen Hunt hangs ten in her new film about surfing and self discovery

Steve Gow
Metro | Life

For her latest movie, Helen Hunt was energized by a hobby she took up relatively late in life to break free from her comfort zone — surfing.

"My inspiration was hearing the phrase 'soccer mom' — all these mothers and fathers sitting on the sidelines while their kids play and have fun," admitted Hunt recently from L.A.

"I thought it would be very funny to write this woman who's so twisted up in her own intellect and (imagine) where would she feel the least comfortable."

In the comedy Ride, which Hunt wrote and directed, she stars as the stiff-necked New Yorker who winds up in California chasing her 20-something surf-seeking son after he drops out of college.

There, the bullheaded matriarch soon finds herself carving up some gnarly breakers as well.

"It's the simplicity of the sport," the 51-year old star explained of her real-life allure to surfing.

"All you need is a plank of wood or fibreglass and then your teammate or opponent — depending how you look at it — is this giant unpredictable thing that Mother Nature made.

"It's hard to think of anything more compelling."

Hunt admits directing her second film (after 2007's Then She Found Me) was not a simple task, however.

Spending up to eight hours a day being crushed by coastal waves was physically, even mentally demanding.

"On the other hand," added Hunt, "I felt like I was playing."

Interestingly, the twice Oscar-nominated actress (winning in 1998 for As Good As It Gets) points out the most difficult part of filming in water was actually the sound.

"Where I really screwed myself is I wrote eight pages of dialogue in water and there's a reason why people don't do that very often — it's really hard to shoot," said Hunt. "I just hope people can hear what I wrote in there."

Ride opens in theatres May 1 and will be available On Demand May 12.

ON LOCATION

The toll of shredding

For Hunt, there was a lot of physicality involved in making a surfing movie. "It's wonderful and terrible as I tried to show in the movie," said Hunt. "There were days I just came home and I was shivering head to toe and I wasn't cold — I think it was just exposure or something."

Helen Hunt and Luke Wilson star in Ride. CONTRIBUTED

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Vergara's ex makes plea to save embryos

DISPUTE

Former fiancé of actress defends lawsuit in open letter

Actress Sofia Vergara's former fiancé says in an op-ed that he sued the Modern Family star to protect their frozen embryos because he longs to become a parent and doesn't want the "two lives" they created to "be destroyed or sit in a freezer until the end of time."

Businessman Nick Loeb wrote Wednesday on NYTimes.com that as the child of divorced parents he yearned to have the kind of family depicted in artist Norman Rockwell's iconic paintings.

He said when he was in his 20s, his girlfriend had an abortion and the decision was "entirely out of my hands." Later, he married a woman with whom he tried to have children with the help of a fertility specialist. The marriage eventually ended.

When he and Vergara became engaged, he said, he began "to push for children," but she insisted they use a surrogate. He said initially two fertilized embryos were created. The first one implanted didn't take and the surrogate miscarried the second. "I felt crushed," he wrote.

Two more embryos were created before their relationship ended. He said he was willing to take full parental responsibility if Vergara didn't want to share custody, but she refused.

The two had signed a form stating that any embryos they created could only be brought to term if both of them agreed. Loeb said the form didn't specifically say, as California law requires, what would happen to the embryos if they separated.

> **This is not just about saving lives; it is also about being pro-parent.**
> Nick Loeb in an op-ed on NYTimes.com

"A woman is entitled to bring a pregnancy to term even if the man objects," he said. "Shouldn't a man who is willing to take on all parental responsibilities be similarly entitled to bring his embryos to term even if the woman objects?"

Loeb said Vergara's lawyer has told reporters that she wants to keep the embryos frozen indefinitely. "In my view, keeping them frozen forever is tantamount to killing them," he said.

Vergara didn't immediately return a request for comment.

Loeb wrote that people have asked him why he doesn't just move on and have a family of his own. "I have every intention of doing so," he said. "But that doesn't mean I should let the two lives I have already created be destroyed or sit in a freezer until the end of time."

He said he takes the responsibility of being a parent seriously. "This is not just about saving lives; it is also about being pro-parent."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sofia Vergara's ex, businessman Nick Loeb, is suing the star over their frozen embryos. GUSTAVO CABALLERO/GETTY IMAGES

SEPARATING INFORMATION AND JOURNALISM

Pssst, did you hear ... sometimes it's better to lose the news race

Fidel Castro and Joni Mitchell were both the subject of death rumours this week. LEFT: AFP/GETTYIMAGES; RIGHT: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Mike Donachie
Metro | Toronto

Joni Mitchell lapsed into a coma on the day Fidel Castro died. Except she didn't, we think, and he didn't. Probably.

Welcome to the world of the celebrity death rumour, and its terrifying effect on newsrooms.

This week, The Associated Press reported the 71-year-old folk singer was in a bad way.

So, in pursuit of web hits and knowing celebrity sells, news organizations across the world ran the story, until Mitchell's social media people tweeted that she was fine, thank you, despite a stay in hospital. Cue hasty corrections, then conflicting reports about the singer's condition, which may or may not be serious, depending on whom you ask.

Meanwhile, rumours of the death of Castro, everybody's favourite cigar-chomping threat to freedom, swept this newsroom. To be fair, Castro has been sick for a long time, so it might happen soon. But, at the time of writing, he isn't dead. I think.

Fellow death hoax targets Jon Bon Jovi, Jeff Goldblum and Charlie Chaplin are also still alive. Oh, wait. Not Chaplin. But Morgan Freeman dies about twice a week.

Social media may be feeding this, but the power of rumour is not new.

Mark Twain's famous statement about reports of his death being "greatly exaggerated" was made after a newspaper report in 1897, for example. Then there's the persistent nonsense about why Paul McCartney was barefoot on the Abbey Road cover, and whether he'd kicked the bucket and been replaced by another left-handed bass player who looks a bit like Angela Lansbury.

We love rumour, but it's a source of consternation for journalists. My most hated day of the year is April 1, when nobody can believe a word they read. I usually stay in bed until noon.

As long as humans exist, there will be glee at hoodwinking others. But in this fast-moving world, there's never been a greater need for checks; just ask the Associated Press.

Social media may dominate our lives, but it should never dominate our thinking. The Joni Mitchell error shows the value of reading proper news sources and recognizing the difference between information and journalism. Sometimes it's better to lose a race, and to be trustworthy.

Just don't forget to tweet me if you see Elvis.

MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE, SAYING GOODBYE TO A BELOVED CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER

Taylor Swift reaches out to fan battling cancer

The family of a 12-year-old Chicago girl with cancer says Taylor Swift called her to talk about music, touring and her disease.

Ed Beazley said Swift chatted with his daughter, Emily, for about 10 minutes Wednesday night.

Emily has non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Friends and family have been appealing to Swift through social media to call Emily, including a video with about 200 children singing and dancing to Swift songs.

Emily's mother, Nadia Beazley, says her daughter had "the biggest smile" and "jumped up and down" after the Grammy Award winner's call.

She says Swift's manager offered the family tickets and the opportunity to meet the singer at her Detroit concert May 30. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lois Lilienstein funeral featured mariachi, songs and chocolate

A private funeral for beloved children's entertainer Lois Lilienstein of Sharon, Lois & Bram was an unconventional celebration featuring a mariachi band and chocolate chips.

Lilienstein's son David says last weekend's ceremony included tears, laughter and recordings of his mother singing Little Sir Echo and Cab Calloway's Everybody Eats When They Come to My House.

He says the Toronto celebration was led off by a mariachi band, which was one of her final requests, and ended with a sprinkling of chocolate chips on her grave "so she can cook her famous brownies in heaven."

Lilienstein died Wednesday after a battle with cancer. She was 78.

The bubbly blond performer is credited with providing the special spark that helped make Sharon, Lois & Bram one of the biggest kids' acts of the 1980s.

David Lilienstein says details of a public memorial are still being worked out but will almost certainly include music.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lois Lilienstein of Sharon, Lois & Bram THE CANADIAN PRESS

A dish that's Far from the Madding Crowd

COOKING

A simple lamb leg inspired by a classic Victorian novel

MY TV DINNER

Jessica Allen

Jessica Allen, the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social, faces two important questions every day. What's for dinner? And what to watch while she eats? Every Friday she'll free associate food, film and TV and discover that the answer to one question is usually found in the other.

I've never read any Thomas Hardy. I've also never cooked lamb. These two truths are related. Bear with me.

The most recent film adaptation of Far from the Madding Crowd — Hardy's fourth novel, which enabled him to quit his architectural day job — hit theatres Friday.

Jessica tried her hand at a traditional recipe of lamb with rosemary #oldskool #careymulligan #farfrommaddingcrowd. FILM IMAGE CONTRIBUTED/LAMB IMAGE JESSICA ALLEN

There are as many film versions you can watch at home as there are sheep in a herd. In the newest film, Carey Mulligan stars as Bathsheba: the kind of woman who "was indispensable to high generation," Hardy wrote of his heroine, who "was hated at tea parties, feared in shops, and loved at crises." Like a gender-reversed Judgement of Paris, Bathsheba must choose between three suitors: a sergeant, an older (and richer) bachelor, and Gabriel Oak, a sheep farmer.

That brings me to lamb, which, like many Canadians, I didn't grow up eating. My mom used to broil lamb chops for herself. But she knew we'd turn up our noses at something more exotic than Hamburger Helper. The Oxford Companion to Food suggests that on account of the distinctive taste of lamb fat, domesticated young sheep meat has never been as popular as pork, beef and chicken in North America.

Here's the thing: I don't dislike lamb. But I've never gone out of my to eat it. I'm inexplicably finicky about it — as stuffy as Hardy's Victorian crowd who disapproved of his lascivious prose that dared to suggest women aspired to more than marriage. Like Bathsheba, I had to make a decision: And I decided to make a Sunday lamb dinner.

I would turn to British food writer Nigella Lawson's How To Eat for a recipe: her marinated butterflied leg of lamb with garlic potatoes to be precise. I also bought peas. (English peas, obviously.) Although it was a first for me, the dish counts as one of Lawson's "most regular regulars," which she prepares year-round — outside over a grill if the weather permits it. On Sunday, it did. So I marinated the flayed leg, which resembled something from Ridley Scott's Alien, in olive oil, lemon zest, smashed garlic cloves and minced rosemary.

I grilled the fatty side first. It effortlessly crisped up — almost caramelized — and it smelled of the woods. It was all so glorious that I texted my partner Simon, who works on Sundays. "It's happening!" I said. " I am making the lamb!!!!"

The dinner could've easily fed four. But we chose to make it a dinner for two. I'd like to think that Hardy, who grew up in County Dorset, where heritage breeds of sheep are plentiful, would approve. Plus — and forgive me for the 141-year-old spoiler alert — he married Bathsheba off to the sheep farmer.

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metro TRAVEL

Your essential daily news

PETS ON BOARD

After a successful pilot project, Amtrak is permanently allowing customers to travel with small pets.

A Rocky Mountain high

'Really special' Abbot Pass Hut straddles Continental Divide, two provinces

If it isn't already on your bucket list, it should be. Perched in the picture-perfect Rocky Mountains is one of the oldest and highest places in Canada to lay your aching bones and happy head.

The Abbot Pass Hut is a thing of beauty itself. Swiss mountaineers chiselled square blocks of rock out of the landscape to craft what has since been designated a national historic site. And it's like nowhere else on Earth.

The building straddles the Continental Divide and the Alberta-British Columbia boundary.

"You could go out the front door and throw a snowball down one side or down the other side and that snow, that water, would end up in two different oceans," says Keith Haberl with the Alpine Club of Canada.

You can also make dinner in Alberta, he says, then walk across the hut and eat it in B.C.

"It really is a special place."

The alpine club took over the hut from Parks Canada in the 1970s. It also maintains and operates 24 others in Canada, making the network of back-country huts for hikers, mountain climbers and skiers the largest in North America.

Abbot Pass Hut's elevation is listed at 2,926 metres. So if you're coming from sea level, you'll first want to spend a few days in the area acclimating to the thinner air.

The only way to get to the trailhead is by booking a bus ride to Lake O'Hara in Yoho National Park; this year it runs June 19 through Oct. 4.

Once you're on the ground, the initial one to two hours of the hike is scenic and relatively easy. The next couple of hours is more gruelling, up a steep slope of small slippery rocks. A helmet is recommended as protection from rocks that fly from under the feet of people walking ahead.

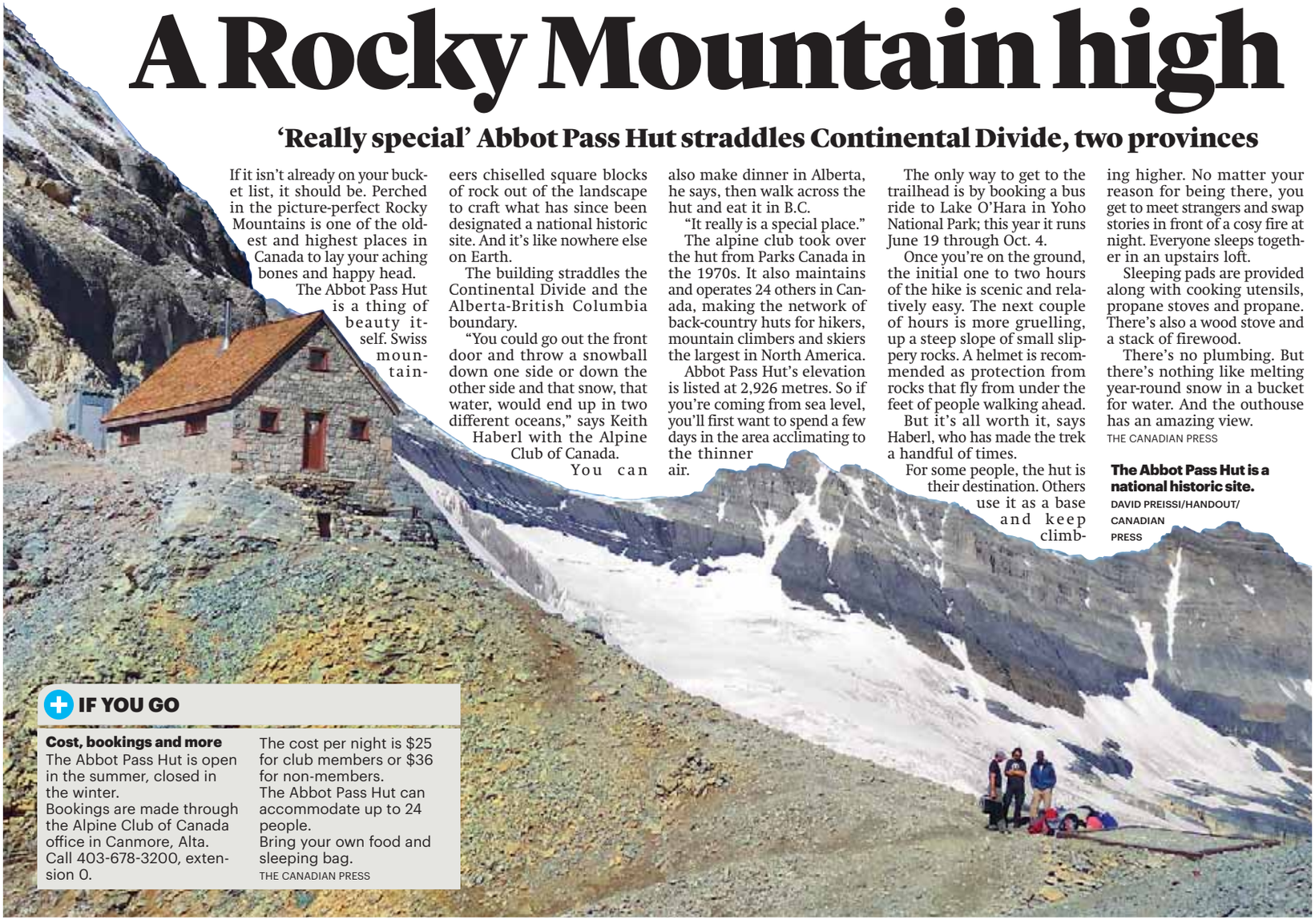
But it's all worth it, says Haberl, who has made the trek a handful of times.

For some people, the hut is their destination. Others use it as a base and keep climbing higher. No matter your reason for being there, you get to meet strangers and swap stories in front of a cosy fire at night. Everyone sleeps together in an upstairs loft.

Sleeping pads are provided along with cooking utensils, propane stoves and propane. There's also a wood stove and a stack of firewood.

There's no plumbing. But there's nothing like melting year-round snow in a bucket for water. And the outhouse has an amazing view.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Abbot Pass Hut is a national historic site.

DAVID PREISSI/HANDOUT/ CANADIAN PRESS

IF YOU GO

Cost, bookings and more

The Abbot Pass Hut is open in the summer, closed in the winter.

Bookings are made through the Alpine Club of Canada office in Canmore, Alta. Call 403-678-3200, extension 0.

The cost per night is $25 for club members or $36 for non-members.

The Abbot Pass Hut can accommodate up to 24 people.

Bring your own food and sleeping bag.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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5

Mumbai is affectionately dubbed The Gateway to India, welcoming millions of tourists each year who are keen to tap into the nation's largest city. Uncover Mumbai's hip haunts and quirky attractions with these top tips.

ANDREW JOHN VIRTUE DOBSON FOR METRO

COLABA SOCIAL

Colaba Social

If you're keen on checking out a funky restaurant and also have an interest in sitting with locals to chat over the latest cricket match, then head to Colaba Social. The restaurant is where local hipsters and the city's fashion fans come to sip on ginger-spiked margaritas and nibble on spicy dishes such as Goan Prawn Curry and Pulled Tandoori Chicken Makhani Bao.

Elephanta Island

Mumbai's most popular day trip for those looking to get out of the city undoubtedly starts with an hour-long ferry ride to Elephanta Island. Populated only by a small fishing community, it was originally known as Gherapura, the "city of Ghara priests", until the Portuguese renamed the island in the 16th century in honour of the carved elephant they found at the port. Its chief attraction is its unique cave temple, whose massive Trimurti (three-faced) Shiva sculpture is as fine an example of Hindu architecture as you'll find anywhere.

Abode Bombay

The Abode Bombay boutique hotel shines brightest as a leader in social responsibility, selling a colourful array of trinkets in a gift shop that supports local non-government organizations, empowering women by working with a women-run taxi company (whose drivers are in many cases single mothers and the sole earners in their family), and supporting a school for the blind.

Dhobi Ghat

Mumbai's most unusual attraction is the Dhobi Ghat, an open-air laundromat where washers work in the open to clean the clothes and linens from local hotels, hospitals and households. Enjoy a magical tour of the famed al fresco laundry village while watching suds fly as a rainbow of linens gently sway in the wind.

Taj Hotel

Top off the perfect day by indulging in high tea at the city's iconic Taj Hotel. Enjoy a stunning view overlooking the harbour as the sun sets across India's own Arc de Triomphe, the towering Gateway to India.

ALL PHOTOS (EXCEPT FOR COLABA SOCIAL) BY ANDREW JOHN VIRTUE DOBSON

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TRAVEL NOTES IRISH CHARM AND CARIBBEAN SPLENDOUR

Ireland's Ashford Castle gets a reno
Luxury brand Red Carnation Hotels recently finished work on Ashford Castle in Co. Mayo in the west of Ireland. The castle dates back to 1228. The renovation included the addition of a 32-seat cinema, billiard room, cigar terrace and children's games room. Visit AshfordCastle.com.

Bucket List: Grace Bay Club
Providenciales, Turks and Caicos, sets the scene for this little paradise, one of the first all-oceanfront suite resorts in the Caribbean. With more than 1,000 feet of beach and three levels of accommodation, Grace Bay offers watersports, golf, tennis, horseback riding and lots of lying around while being waited on hand and foot. This retreat is also home to the Caribbean Food and Wine Festival each year. Visit GraceBayResorts.com.

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Black Forest contains fairy-tale ingredients

GERMANY

Area houses camping spot, mountains and famous cake

The Black Forest gets its name from a canopy of trees so dense that the woods seem dark, pierced only by shafts of sunlight. Mushrooms sprout across the damp forest floor. Red squirrels scamper up the towering trees; streams tumble over rocks.

No wonder this magical place inspired so many Grimms' fairy-tales. But the bleak name Black Forest — Schwarzwald in German — does not capture its beauty.

IF YOU GO

Daily two euro ($2.70 CDN) fee for all visitors age 18 and over, which covers use of Black Forest trains and buses.

A waterfall in Triberg, Germany, serves as a backdrop for a stroll in the Black Forest area. SIOBHAN STARRS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mountainous area

You can camp near the village of Enzklosterle (muellerwiese.de), in one of hundreds of valleys scattered across the forest's vast, mountainous expanse.

Bring your own tent or RV (RV rentals are available at the Frankfurt airport); rent a tent, cabin or apartment; or choose from a variety of hotels

The forest stretches across 6,000 square kilometres in the southwest of Germany, an easy trip from Frankfurt.

But this is no spa resort, and the mountains beckon. There are paths here of all types, from gentle strolls to demanding long-distance hikes, all well-signed and maintained. The region is also popular with mountain bikers.

Mushrooms of all shapes, sizes and shades emerge from rotting tree stumps and leaves in vivid crimsons, delicate corals, black, brown, purple and orange. You mustn't try them without expert guidance though; like potions in a Grimm Brothers story, they might be poison.

On a rainy day, drive an hour to medieval Schiltach and another half-hour to the town of Triberg.

Traditional half-timbered houses — with gabled roofs and framed windows forming distinctive geometric patterns on the building facades — add to the fairy-tale look of the towns. Triberg also boasts three claims to fame: cuckoo clocks, Black Forest cake and Germany's highest waterfalls.

Shopping, sightseeing

The waterfall trails are busy with visitors watching the Gutach river plunge in seven cascades, more than 160 metres into the valley below. For a taste of Old World charm, why not window-shop for cuckoo clocks. Prices range from $27 CDN for the tiniest clock, to more than $1,350 for a large carved timepiece.

On the outskirts of town, visit what is billed as the world's largest cuckoo clock. For just two euros you can have a tour of its mechanisms.

The Black Forest's culinary showstopper demands to be tasted. Triberg claims the original recipe of the famous Black Forest cherry cake, which is not as sweet as variations elsewhere, but offers a light chocolatey sponge, soaked in cherry schnapps, filled with cream and cherries, and topped with chocolate shavings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVEL TIPS

River cruise woos young and old alike

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie

A recent trip on the inaugural cruise of the Avalon Tranquility II has been an Ivy League crash course in one of the fastest-growing trends in the travel industry: river cruising.

Based on my abbreviated four-day itinerary from the stunning castle-land of Germany's Rhine River gorge through to Basel, Switzerland, I offer this quick tutorial on River Cruising 101.

River ships are not a floating senior citizens' home. Longer itineraries will likely have more retirees on board due to the time commitment, but that doesn't mean it's not a great experience for younger folks. Once you factor in the cost of doing a similar trip on your own, accommodation, meals (including wine with dinner), excursions, entertainment and transportation, the value proposition is excellent.

It has been a welcome surprise that many of the excursions are not geared toward the sedentary set. Pack your walking shoes and be prepared to cover some ground.

Size does matter. Due to infrastructure restrictions, such as the height of bridges and size of locks, the ships plying the rivers of Europe will never be larger than 135 metres long, 11.4 metres wide and a hair more than 6 metres high. That translates to an average of 140 people on any given ship.

> **Many of the excursions are not geared toward the sedentary set**

Those used to large ship cruising can say goodbye to long lines to embark, disembark or simply enjoy a meal. These small ships also provide easy access to the destinations, where you can wander into town from the dock at your leisure.

Not all river ships are created equal. When booking, ask questions on the benefits and restrictions of your ship.

For example, a big selling feature for some companies is the addition of balconies off of the staterooms. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions on ship width, this means ships with balconies have smaller staterooms. I prefer Avalon's panorama suite model, which offers 200 sq. ft. of spacious stateroom minus the balcony. The configuration of the suite also places the bed facing out toward full-length sliding glass doors, allowing you to lay back and watch the world float by.

It's just civilized. Settling into a stateroom, unpacking once, stopping at fairy tale-like villages and sharing stories over dinner with like-minded travellers are all part of the experience.

metro SPORTS

Sidney Crosby will be Canada's captain at the world championship in Prague

WEEKEND, May 1-3, 2015

A Saturday as big as it gets

MAYWEATHER-PACQUIAO

Fight of the century not only event to anticipate

The most-anticipated fight of all time; the best-known horse race; the premier baseball rivalry; the NFL draft: those are just the highlights.

Super Saturday — perhaps a day unlike any other in the history of sports — awaits.

Stock the refrigerator, replace the remote batteries, get the weekend errands done early, invite your friends, fire up that grill and if you're very fortunate, confirm those flights. For the sports consumer, an amazing number of options will be available.

From the Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao fight that could generate $400 million and topple every known record in boxing history, to the 141st edition of the Kentucky Derby, to the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox colliding for the 2,142nd time to the NFL draft's final rounds and so much more, it's a sports enthusiast's dream.

The fight in Las Vegas is overshadowing all, with good reason.

"I don't plan on being there," said Masters champion Jordan Spieth, "but I may be."

Here's the translation. Spieth is playing in the Match Play Championship at San Francisco — another really big event that won't generate much of a blip this weekend because of everything else happening in the sports world. If he's ousted before Saturday, his consolation prize is a trip to Vegas.

"There are tickets," Spieth said.

Tickets, yes — ones he doesn't want to use, but at least he has them. Most people didn't have a chance at getting into the MGM Grand this weekend, and some deep-pocketed folks have spent more than $250,000 for a pair of prime seats.

"I've never seen anything like this in my life," said Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's trainer.

He meant the spectacle surrounding the fight.

He could have just as easily been talking about the worldwide hubbub of what awaits on Super Saturday.

"It's time to fight now ... the biggest fight in boxing history," Mayweather said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The pay-per-view for the Mayweather-Pacquiao fight will cost around $100 to watch in your home. JOHN GURZINSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

52

The fight will be broadcast in at least 52 countries, and who knows how many will be able to access it online globally.

DREAM DAY

THE DERBY

A field of 20 will run for the roses at Churchill Downs. About $125 million was bet on the Derby last year, more than 160,000 fans are expected at Churchill and it's not implausible to think that 15 million or so will watch on TV in the U.S. alone.

THE PLAYOFFS

The NHL playoffs continue, with Washington and the New York Rangers in Game 2. Depending on what happened Thursday, there's a chance the NBA could see one or two Game 7s to end the first round.

FOR EVERYONE ELSE

Real Madrid face Sevilla in a very big Spanish soccer match, NASCAR has qualifying at Talladega on Saturday, no small event on its schedule either. There's an LPGA tournament, plus Detroit and Kansas City are squaring off in a matchup of two of baseball's best teams early this season.

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Wiggins named rookie of the year

Andrew Wiggins was drafted No. 1 overall by the Cleveland Cavaliers in last June's NBA draft, but he never got the chance to play with LeBron James before being traded to the Timberwolves in a blockbuster summer deal. MIKE STOBE/GETTY IMAGES

Wiggins was awarded the rookie of the year trophy on Thursday in Minneapolis.
JIM MONE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wiggins was named MVP of the NBA all-star young stars challenge scoring 22 points.
ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

Wiggins was welcomed to Minnesota as the key cog in the T-Wolves' most recent rebuild post-Kevin Love.
HANNAH FOSLIEN/GETTY IMAGES

A YEAR IN THE LIFE

Five snapshots of Andrew Wiggins' whirlwind first year in the world's top basketball league.

Wiggins returned to Cleveland on Dec. 23 to face the team that traded him, scoring 27 points in a 125-104 loss.
MIKE LAWRIE/GETTY IMAGES

NBA

Vaughan star averaged 16.9 points a game for T-Wolves

Dressed in a navy blue tuxedo with shiny black lapels, Andrew Wiggins certainly looked the part while collecting his NBA rookie of the year award Thursday.

The Canadian phenom looked even better on the court in his first season in the league.

Wiggins became the first Minnesota Timberwolves player to win the rookie of the year, and he did it in a landslide. The Vaughan native received 110 of 130 first-place votes and had 604 points in the voting. Chicago's Nikola Mirotic finished second with 14 first-place votes and 335 points and Philadelphia's Nerlens Noel was third.

"It means a lot to me. I know it means a lot to the organization and there's a whole lot of history," Wiggins said. "It should bring a lot of hope for the future of the Minnesota Timberwolves. It should give people a different look at things. This is the uprising. We've got a lot of young talent."

After coming to the Timberwolves in the trade that sent Kevin Love to Cleveland, Wiggins averaged 16.9 points and 4.6 rebounds while playing all 82 games.

Wiggins was drafted No. 1 overall by the Cavaliers last summer and has been a heavily hyped prospect since he was a teenager. He lived up to that in his first year in the NBA, emerging as the new centrepiece of a franchise that has not made the playoffs for 11 straight years.

"When I first came here a couple years ago, I met with (owner Glen Taylor) and said the No. 1 thing we had to do to build a franchise and develop that culture was to get a game-changing type player," coach and team president Flip Saunders said. "A player that was a two-way type player that could play offence, could play defence. Last year, Aug. 23, when we traded for Andrew Wiggins we got that type of player. And we were ready and set to go."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It is exciting for Canada to have a player like Andrew with such high potential and bright talent."
Steve Nash

Andrew Wiggins
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IN BRIEF

Altercation muddles NBL Canada championship

Game 7 of the National Basketball League Canada's championship series was called off on Thursday night after an altercation between players on the Windsor Express and Halifax Rainmen.

The incident occurred Thursday morning during shootarounds as both teams prepared for the decisive game. The Rainmen's front office felt it was unsafe for the team to compete Thursday night and did not show up for the game.

Matt Dumouchelle, a spokesman for the Express, told The Canadian Press that no players were injured and that it was unclear how the championship series would be completed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBL PLAYOFFS

Bulls make sure the Bucks stop here

Mike Dunleavy scored 20 points and the Chicago Bulls came close to an NBA playoff record, finally putting away the Milwaukee Bucks with a 120-66 victory in Game 6 to clinch their first-round series Thursday night.

The Bulls, who move on to face the Cleveland Cavaliers in the second round, finished four points away from the NBA playoff record for largest margin of victory. Minnesota beat St. Louis 133-75 on March 19, 1956.

The game was over early, but it still featured plenty of the intensity and bad blood that marked the first five games of the series.

No Bucks starter scored more than ZaZa Pachulia's eight points. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Bulls' Paul Gasol blocks the shot of the Bucks' Jared Dudley on Thursday in Milwaukee. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL DRAFT TAMPA BAY END SUSPENSE WITH WINSTON PICK
Jameis Winston takes the call from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Thursday in Bessemer, Ala. The Bucs put an end to months of speculation by selecting the talented-but-troubled signal caller, who won the Heisman Trophy in 2013. BUTCH DILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL PLAYOFFS

Ward gives Caps a win in Manhattan

Joel Ward scored with 1.3 seconds left to give the Washington Capitals a 2-1 victory over the New York Rangers on Thursday night in Game 1 of their second-round series.

Ward drove to the net and tapped Alex Ovechkin's feed past Henrik Lundqvist. After the goal was confirmed by replay, Ovechkin kissed Ward on the cheek.

Ovechkin opened the scoring on a power play with 1:47 remaining in the first period. Jesper Fast tied it with 4:39 left in the third, tipping Kevin Hayes' point shot past goalie Braden Holtby.

GAME 1 On Thursday

CAPITALS	RANGERS
2	1

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pillar of strength stands tall for Jays

MLB

Outfielder's two-run double help to see off Indians

Kevin Pillar's two-run double highlighted a big fourth inning and Toronto's bullpen worked the final six innings, leading the Blue Jays to a 5-1 win over the Cleveland Indians on Thursday night.

The Blue Jays, the highest-scoring team in the American League, broke open a scoreless game with a five-run inning.

Blue Jays starter Daniel Norris lasted only three innings, but Jeff Francis, Roberto Ozuna, Aaron Loup and Brett Cecil finished it off. Francis (1-0) allowed one run in 2 1-3 innings.

TJ House (0-4) didn't allow a hit through three innings, but couldn't retire a batter in the fourth when the first five hitters reached base and scored.

The Indians, predicted to contend for a playoff spot, end April with a 7-14 record, the worst in the AL. Cleveland is 1-9 when scoring three runs or fewer and has lost nine of 13.

Danny Valencia's RBI single and Russell Martin's run-scoring double gave Toronto the lead before Pillar doubled in two more runs, ending the night for House. Jonathan Diaz's squeeze bunt scored the fifth run.

Jose Bautista drew a leadoff walk and Edwin Encarnacion singled before the next three hitters drove in runs, sending House to the showers.

Toronto Blue Jays' Kevin Pillar crashes into the wall as he catches a fly ball hit by Cleveland Indians' Brandon Moss in the fifth inning TONY DEJAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pillar added a spectacular catch when he ran down Brandon Moss's drive to centre field in the fifth. Pillar hung on to the ball despite hitting his head against the wall and crashing to the ground.

Slow starts in April are nothing new to the Indians. Cleveland went 11-13 in 2013, but qualified for the playoffs as a wild-card team. The Indians were 11-17 last April and missed the playoffs by three games.

Norris, a rookie left-hander, dodged trouble through three innings, but didn't come out of the fourth after throwing 78 pitches. Francis gave up Michael Brantley's RBI single in the fifth. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Messi expecting 2nd child
Lionel Messi and his partner Antonella Roccuzzo are expecting a second child.

Messi placed a black-and-white photograph of his son Thiago, 3, tenderly kissing Roccuzzo's belly on his official Instagram account.

The caption says, "Expecting you eagerly."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL playoff ratings up
The big winner through the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs may be Rogers Media.

The Toronto-based company, which paid $5.2 billion for exclusive national rights to all NHL games for 12 years, saw ratings jump 36 per cent over last season's first round, according to Canadian ratings company Numeris.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

TFC goalie questionable for match in Philadelphia
Toronto FC is facing another defensive challenge this weekend with an injury to regular starting goalie Joe Bendik.

Coach Greg Vanney said Bendik felt something in his foot in last Saturday's 2-0 win in Orlando and is questionable this weekend. Toronto backup Chris Konopka has started two MLS games in the last five seasons. Toronto (1-2-4) visits the slumping Philadelphia Union (1-5-3) on Saturday. The Union have given up a league-worst 17 goals this season.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RECIPE Chicken Morsels with Rice Noodles and Sesame Sauce

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 11 minutes

Ingredients
Serves 4
- 1 lb skinless boneless chicken thighs, diced
- 1 Tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- ½ cup chicken stock
- 2 Tbsp rice vinegar
- 3 Tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp molasses
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- 1 tsp hot chili paste (or to taste)
- 6 oz medium rice noodles (¼ inch wide)
- 1½ cups thinly sliced red or yellow bell pepper
- 1½ cups thinly sliced snow or sugar snap peas
- 1/3 cup chopped cilantro or parsley
- 2 tsp sesame seeds, toasted
- Fresh bean sprouts and chopped red onion (optional)

Directions
1. Place chicken, soy sauce and cornstarch in a bowl; stir till well combined. Add oil to large non-stick wok and sauté chicken 4 minutes, until almost cooked. Remove and set aside. Wipe out the pan.

2. For sauce, combine stock, vinegar, soy sauce, sugar, molasses, cornstarch, sesame oil and chili paste in a small bowl; stir until well combined.

3. Cook noodles in boiling water 2 minutes. Drain and set aside.

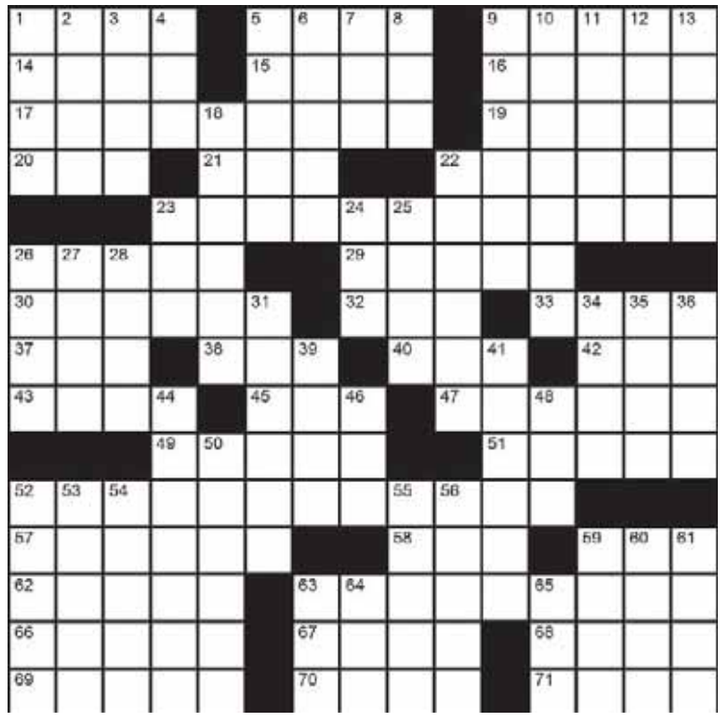
4. Respray wok with cooking oil and add peppers and peas. Sauté 2 minutes, stir in the sauce and chicken. Cook, stirring, for about 1 minute, until the sauce has thickened. Add the rice noodles and heat thoroughly, about 2 minutes. Serve on a large platter garnished with cilantro or parsley and sesame seeds. Scatter bean sprouts and onion overtop, if desired.

Nutrition information per serving
- Calories 317
- Protein 40 g
- Fat 11 g
- Saturated fat 2 g
- Carbohydrates 16 g
- Cholesterol 148 mg
- Sodium 506 mg
- Fibre 1.9 g

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Facial arch
5. Adhere
9. Chunks
14. Hawkeye State
15. Lima's land
16. Engraved head necklace piece
17. Iron Man's alter ego in the new Robert Downey Jr. superhero movie at #30-Across: 2 wds.
19. Canadian singer Eva of "Bitter Meets Sweet"
20. First aid team, e.g.
21. She alternative
22. Portland's state
23. Carey Mulligan's new movie based on the 1874 Thomas Hardy novel, "Far from the __ __" (2015)
26. Shock weapon
29. The Carpenters songstress
30. "Avengers: Age of __" (2015)
32. Centre
33. Inscribe
37. Furthermore
38. __ King Cole
40. Pharaoh snake
42. Shed tool
43. Beehive State
45. __-i-Noor Diamond
47. Journalist's informative contact
49. Thwart
51. Regular
52. "Rough Hands" and "This Could Be Anywhere in the World" band from St. Catharines, ON
57. Best Buy purchase
58. 'Germ' add-on (Relevant)
59. Ouest's opposite
62. 'Punny' joke reaction
63. Sport for Harry Potter
66. Befuddle
67. Commedia dell'__
68. Lei-wearer's party
69. BC: Island of the Haida Gwaii archipelago
70. Pizza __ (Product by frozen meals brand Michelina's)
71. Nice

DOWN
1. Chomp
2. Leeway
3. Possesses
4. Method
5. Chose
6. Shaver's target
7. Be mistaken
8. Little laugh
9. Hard to come by
10. "__ & Shirley"
11. Friend
12. Under
13. __-__-so
18. __, Lois & Bram
22. Shrek's beloved Fiona, for one
23. Sea: French
24. Pres. Eisenhower
25. "Glee" actress Ms. Rivera
26. Ballet skirt
27. Much: 2 wds.
28. Ancient portico
31. Village in BC known for its hot springs
34. Drive-__
35. __-Cola
36. Scoundrel
39. "What's Love Got __ __ with It" by Tina Turner
41. Served the orange juice
44. Ron __ (Brandon, MB born goalie who is currently GM of the Philadelphia Flyers)
46. Farm bird
48. Function
50. Mr. Richie, Nicole's dad
52. Pertaining to a pond's green film
53. Greasy
54. Lyric poem
55. Stefano __, Canadian celebrity chef
56. Book's reference section
59. Dainty case
60. Skim over
61. Dull sound
63. '_' __ in Quebec
64. Vase
65. Type

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Mercury's change of sign today urges a change in attitude on your part. Try taking a step back from what you have been stressing about over the past few weeks.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The more others try to change your way of looking at things the more you will dig in your heels, and you are right to resist. Only you know what is best for you and your instincts tell you this is a time for consolidation, not change.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
It is time to seize the initiative, declare your independence and start something new. With Mercury, your ruler, moving into your own sign today you can be sure that whatever you begin will be stamped with the mark of success.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
There are times when you are quite unsociable and this is one of them. By all means spend some time by yourself to think things through and decide what your next major move is going to be.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Social activities are under excellent stars at the moment, so take time out of your busy schedule to have fun with friends. Also, if there is some kind of cause or social movement that is close to your heart now is the time to get more involved.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you are not making career plans then you should be. Don't think only in terms of earning money and moving up the corporate ladder, think too about making a difference.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a good time to be on the move but if work and family commitments keep you stuck in one place you can at least make vacation plans for later in the year. Go somewhere exotic.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Mind planet Mercury moves into one of the more secretive areas of your chart today, so chances are you won't have much to say for yourself and what you do say will be deliberately misleading. Just watch out you don't mislead yourself.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Partners and loved ones will have plenty to say for themselves today and not all of it will be music to your ears, but do listen. Once they have let off steam things will quickly get back to normal.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A task you have been putting off for ages will have to be dealt with over the next few days. Then you can turn your attention to more enjoyable things.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't worry if your confidence has been a bit low in recent weeks because as from today you will be much more positive about your long-term prospects. It's always a great time to be you, but now more so than ever.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
A needy individual may get on your nerves but being the nice guy you are you will do what you can to help them. But make sure they know that this is not going to become a regular thing. Sooner or later they have to get a grip.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		7	5	3				
						5		
	6		9	8				3
						2		8
5		6		1		3		7
1		8						
6				9	1		2	
		3						
				2	6	9		

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